



*Adam & Eve beholding the dead Body of Abel
and hearing the Curses of Cain.*



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T H E
D E A T H O F A B E L.
I N
F I V E B O O K S.

Attempted from the
G E R M A N
O F
Mr. G E S S N E R.

T H E
T W E N T Y - S E V E N T H E D I T I O N.

L O N D O N.

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T O T H E
Q U E E N.

MADAM,

PERMIT me to lay at the foot of your Throne this volume, which is an attempt to translate from Your Native Language, a work deservedly admired. I am sensible it is but a faint representation of the glowing beauties of the excellent original ; yet I flatter myself, I have in some measure preserv'd the ideas, especially those which fill and warm the heart with the love of virtue. On this account, and on this only, I presume to hope for your MAJESTY's favourable acceptance of the work.

Placed by the hand of Providence at an humble distance from the Great, my cares and pleasures are

iv DEDICATION.

concentred within the narrow limits of my little family, and it is in order to contribute to the support and education of my children. I have taken up the pen. Your MAJESTY's Patronage will undoubtedly insure my success ; but I am far from hoping that You, MADAM, will give Your Royal Sanction to a performance that has no other merit to plead than the ill-judged, tho' affectionate industry of a fond mother. If I have attempted a task for which Nature never designed me, it is just that disappointment should teach me humility and wisdom ; and I bow without repining at the stroke.

Confin'd as my situation is, I shar'd in the universal joy visible on every countenance on your safe arrival. This general satisfaction was a most auspicious omen in the beginning of Your Reign. May
You



DEDICATION. ▼

You, MADAM, ever feel the delight of giving joy to a brave and loyal people. May your exemplary virtues, united with those of our beloved Sovereign, put wickedness to shame, and force vice to hide its head. May all ranks, influenc'd by Royal Precedent and the manners of Your Court, grow ashamed of licentiousness, inhumanity, profaneness, and dissipation. May the sincere gratitude and love of a reformed, united and happy people, render valuable the Splendour of Your public station, while domestic peace, conjugal felicity, and maternal love, fill with tranquil delight Your more retir'd hours. May You see with transport the rising virtues of a numerous Progeny. May You, MADAM, to use the patriarchal language of my author—May You, full of days and full of glory, after having beheld Your

vi DEDICATION.

Children's Children flourish round
You, late, very late, resign an
earthly crown, to receive an ever-
lasting diadem in the realms of
bliss and immortality. These are
the ardent wishes of,

MADAM,

YOUR's and his MAJESTY's

Most devoted

And most obedient

Subject and Servant,

MARY COLLYER.

THE

T H E
A U T H O R ' S
P R E F A C E.

I Now venture on a more sublime subject than has hitherto employed my pen, from a desire of knowing whether my abilities will bear a further trial. This is a curiosity which ought to influence every man. The public are too apt to discourage a young Poet who has succeeded in one branch of poetry, and are for confining him to that only in which he has been once successful, as his *ne plus ultra* ; as if that alone was the very thing in which he could shew his whole strength of his genius, when, perhaps some external circumstance, or a mere accident, rather than any particular impulse, determined his choice.

Though a poet who attempts the sublimer parts of poetry were not entitled to regard from the public, he would find himself amply rewarded in the happy execution of his voluntary task. To revolve a vast va-

riety of things, to trace the motives of actions to their original source, to draw characters, and thro' intricate occurrences gradually to open interesting events, is attended with a thousand pleasures. Nature is to him an inexhaustible magazine, where true genius collects every object: then is the whole mind in action, and talents are awaken'd which would very probably have otherwise lain dormant and unknown.

But it will be said, at this rate we shall have nothing but epic poems and tragedies. They who are apprehensive of such a misfortune should know, that when I say such compositions will give greater and more various pleasures than little pieces to the poet, I mean, it will also be the same with the reader. However, few have leisure or inclination for large performances: most men are taken up with occupations of a different nature: many will choose to pay their addresses to a less coy mistress than the epic muse, and I dare prophecy, we shall never be without master-pieces in every branch of poetry. Far be it from me to depreciate the light and sportive works of fancy; for tho' I wish for more HOMERS, I yet think ÆSOP and ANACREON cannot be too much admired.

Some

Some will be astonish'd, and others offend'd, that I have taken for my subject a Scripture history. The latter I will suppose, are somewhat advanc'd in years, and have by being immers'd in business, and the arduous task of growing rich, been prevent'd from looking into new books : these have a zeal for the honour of their religion, and retain all the prejudices they imbib'd in their youth against poetry, having drawn their knowledge of that divine art from specimens, which, a very few excepted, were neither worthy to be known or valued. A poet, in the times of their youth, was esteem'd, even by sensible Germans, only as a droll fellow, a kind of buffoon. But to those who have perus'd the Bible with so little sense of its beauties, I have nothing to say. They must be void of taste, and to reason with them would be as ridiculous as to carry a lantern before the blind. It is to those who are capable of reflection, I would now address myself. I would wish these to observe, that the works which made the poets be consider'd in a contemptible light, were wrote in an age when poetry was in its wretched declension, and far from its original and genuine dignity. It has always been in the retinue of religion,

and is of no small service to it, being the most energetic method of conveying the sentiments of virtue and devotion. It affords a noble delight to the understanding, it improves the heart, and excites to whatever is becoming and praise-worthy. But when it relaxes and sports, its wit must be decent and pure, and have a tendency to create a contempt for ribaldry and profaneness. Poetry of the loose kind I despise and detest from my very soul.

Under the conduct of prudence, virtue, and good manners, poetry may be allowed to take its subject from the great truths of our holy religion. What can be more proper for the exercise of genius than the sacred history? As Christians, we assent to its truth; as Christians, we are all equally concerned in its important events. The poet, if he has the happy art of illustrating the characters he draws from divine history, with what is probable and pleasing, and placing them in an instructive view, will have an opportunity of conveying, in the clearest and most striking manner, the salutary instances of religion and piety, into the hearts of good men, and will be read with pleasure by people in every situation.

If this be attempted by a head unequal to the

the task, such compositions, I allow may do more harm than good; but is not this equally the case with all judicious expositions?

This liberty with the sacred history has been used in all nations? and among us, even at the time of the reformation, none took umbrage at the dramatic pieces taken from the Scriptures; these were publicly allowed, tho' their principal merit was the good intention of their authors, the poetry being far from elegant.

But a new objector cries, At this rate the Bible will become a mere fable. I would ask him if this has been the fate of profane history? HOMER and VIRGIL took the subject of their poems from antient history; but who ever thought of adjusting those histories by their poems: or whoever in reading their works, imagin'd them to be historians or consider'd them in any other light than as poets?

There is yet another numerous class of people to whom I must pay my court: these are they who too excessively polite to relish heroes who have a sense of piety; who talk of religion, who are serious, and affect neither raillery nor wit. Characters drawn from those exhibited in the days of
thinking

ii THE AUTHOR'S

thinking, must make a strange appearance to these sons of fashion. Such manners! Such conversation! to them my heroes will appear as odd creatures as those of HOMER did to the French, who were offended that they were not Frenchmen. To these slaves of mode I would whisper it as a secret, that being myself young, and like them, fond of applause, I will in order to obtain their suffrages, which are of mighty importance to me, give this subject a new dress. I will introduce an amorous intrigue, for what is an epic poem without a love adventure? ABEL shall be a languishing petit maitre; CAIN, a rough Captain of the Cossacks, and nothing shall come from the lips of ADAM, that is not in character from an hoary Frenchman, hackney'd in the ways of the world.

T H E
T R A N S L A T O R ' s
P R E F A C E.

THE work from which this is attempted, is written by Mr GESSNER, of Zurich in Swisserland. The rapidity of the sale does honour to the taste of the Swiss and Germans, it having passed through three editions in one year,

The subject is the death of ABEL, which is the most remarkable event recorded in the sacred history from the fall to the deluge. The poet has had the art to interest us in the distresses of our first parents, and their immediate descendants, by the lively and affecting manner in which he manages the passions, and by the graces and truth he throws into his paintings, while he describes the simple manners of the first inhabitants of the earth.

All our author's works, of which this is the first that has been translated into English, are wrote in a kind of loose poetry,
un-

xiv *The Translator's* PREFACE.

unshackled by the tagging of rhymes, or the counting of syllables. This method of writing seems perfectly suited to the German language, and is of a middle species between verse and prose : It has the beauties of the first, with the ease of the last. It is not however peculiar to Mr. GESSNÉR ; for in this manner the great FENELON wrote his *TELEMACHUS*, of which the public has been favoured with an elegant translation by the able hand of Dr. HAWKESWORTH.

Of this attempt I am not qualified to speak ; were I to decry it I should certainly be arrogant and rude in offering it to the public, and to praise it would be presumption. But I will venture to say, that I flatter myself my copy has escaped any glaring deformity, though it may want many of the almost inimitable graces of the charming original. That painter must indeed be a dauber who could make a disagreeable picture while he attempted to copy a *RAPHAËL*, or a *TITIAN*. Such as it is I leave it to the candour of the reader, believing, that notwithstanding the loud cry of universal depravity, no one will, without just cause, and in mere wantonness of cruelty, condemn the assiduous efforts a female pen.

T H E

[1]

T H E

D E A T H

O F

A B E L.

B O O K I.

HENCEFORTH repose in silence,
thou soft pipe; no more I render
thee vocal, no more I chant the simple man-
ners of the rustic swain. Fain would I raise
my voice to bolder strains, and in harmo-
nious lays rehearse the adventures of our
primeval parents, after their dreadful fall.
Fain would I celebrate him, who sacrific'd
by a brother's fury, his dust first mingled
with the earth. Come thou noble Enthu-
siasm, that warmest and fillest the mind of
the rapt poet, who during the silent hours
of the night, contemplates in the gloom of
the thick grove, or at the side of a clear
stream, glimmering with the moon's pale
lamp; when seiz'd by a divine transport,
Imagination takes her flight, and with bold
wing

wing traversing the region of created substance, penetrates into the distant empire of Possibilites, discovering with clear view the marvellous that captivates, and the beautiful that enchants. Loaded with treasure, she returns to arrange and construct her various materials. Taught by reason to chuse and reject, she, with a wise œconomy, admits only what forms harmonious relations. Delightful employment ! Laudable constancy ! I honour the bard, who to excite sentiments of virtue in the yielding heart, watches the nocturnal song of the grasshopper, till the rising of the morning star. Posterity will crown the urn of a poet, who consecrates his talents to virtue and to innocence : his name shall not be forgot ; his reputation shall bloom with unfading verdure, while the trophies of the proud conqueror shall moulder in the dust, and the superb mausoleum of a tyrant shall stand unknown in the midst of a desert, where human feet have made no path. Few, 'tis true, who have ventur'd on these noble subjects, have received from nature the gift of singing well ; but the attempt is laudable : to it I consecrate all my moments of leisure, and all my solitary walks.

The tranquil hours had just given Au-
rore

roræ the tint of the rose, and dispell'd the vapours of the night that had hover'd over the shadowy earth; while the sun, beginning to dart his first rays behind the black cedars of the mountains, ting'd with radiant purple the half enlightened clouds; when ABEL and his beloved THIRZA left their leafy couch, and repair'd to a neighbouring bower, composed of interwoven jessamine and roses. The tenderest love and the purest virtue shone with the mildest beams in the fine blue eyes of THIRZA, and gave attractive graces to the carnation of her cheeks: with her fair locks, waving in ringlets on her snowy neck, and hanging with a becoming negligence down her back, added to the beauty of her fine and delicate form. Thus she walked by the side of ABEL, whose high forehead was shaded with ringlets of the palest brown, reaching no lower than his shoulders. An air of thought and reflection was agreeably mix'd with the sweet serenity of his looks, and he mov'd with the easy grace of an angel, who charg'd with the gracious behest of the MOST HIGH, becomes visible to the enraptur'd saint in human form; but the veil he assumes is of such ravishing beauty that thro' it shines the angel. THIRZA, with a look
of

of affection, and a tender smile, cry'd O my love, now the birds awake, and begin to chant their morning song, let me hear the hymn you yesterday sung in these smiling pastures; let me also join in the rapturous employment of serving the LORD. The melody of thy lips, inspires my heart with an holy transport, the sensations I feel, but am unable to express. ABEL tenderly embracing her, reply'd, My lovely THIRZA, instantly I will grant thy request. I no sooner read thy wishes in thine eyes, than with a lover's haste, I strive to fulfil them. They then seated themselves in the fragrant bower, whose entrance was gilded by the morning sun, and ABEL thus began:

Retire, O sleep, from every eye. Fly, ye hovering dreams; reason again resumes her throne; again she illumines the mind, as the morning sun enlightens the fertile earth. We hail thee, resplendent sun, who dartest thy beams from behind the cedars; thy friendly rays give light and colour to re-animated nature, and every beauty smiles with new-born graces.

Retire, O sleep, from every eye. Fly, ye hovering dreams to the shades of night. Where are the shades of night? They have fled to the caves of the rocks; we shall find

find them there, and be refresh'd by their coolness during the sultry heat of noon. See where the new-born day first wakes the eagle ; where on the glittering summits of the rocks, and the shining sides of the mountains, the exhalations ascend and mix with the pure air of the morning, the smoke of burnt-offerings arises from the altar. Thus nature celebrates the returning light, and pays to nature's God the sacrifice of grateful praise. Praise him all things that exist ; praise him whose wisdom and goodness produc'd and preserves all. Ye springing flowers exhale the sweets he gave you in His praise. Ye wing'd inhabitants of the grove, pour forth the warbling of your little throats to Him who gave you voice and melody : while the majestic lion pays Him homage with the terror of his mouth, and the caverns of the rocks resound His praise. Praise God, O my soul ! praise God the creator and preserver. Let the voice of man reach Thy throne, O Lord, before that of thy other creatures : in the grey twilight, at the dawn of the morning, while the birds and the beasts yet sleep, may my solitary song find acceptance, and invite the reviving creation to praise Thee, the great Creator and Preserver. How magnifi-

magnificent are thy works, O GOD ! wisdom and goodness are stamp'd on all. Wherever I turn my eyes, I perceive the traces of thy bounty ; each sense is transported, and conveys their infinite beauties to my ravish'd mind. O GOD, weak and frail as I am, fain would I attempt Thy praise. What induc'd Thee, MAKER OMNIPOTENT, forever happy in Thyself, to call from nothing this gay creation ? What induc'd Thee, Thou self-existent, to form man out of the dust, and to give him the breath of life ? It was thine infinite goodness. Thou gavest him being, that thou mightest confer on him happiness. O smiling morn ! in thee I see a lively image of the work of the great CREATOR ; when the sun disperses the vapours of the earth, and drives Night before his steps, all nature revives with renewed lustre. The ALMIGHTY spoke ; Darkness fled, and Silence heard His voice : He commanded, and myriads of living creatures emerg'd from the teeming earth, flutter'd in the air with variegated plumage, and render'd the astonished woods vocal with the praises of the beneficent CREATOR. Earth again hears the voice of her Almighty MAKER ; the heaving clods rise in innumerable

merable shapes, and burst into life and motion. The new form'd horse bounds o'er the verdant turf, and neighing shakes his mane : while the strong lion, impatient to free himself from the cumbrous earth, attempts his first roaring. A hill teems with life ; it moves : it bursts, and from it stalks the huge unweildy elephant. These are thy works, O Thou OMNIPOTENT ! Each morn Thou call'st Thy creatures from sleep, the image of nonexistence ; they awake surrounded by Thy bounties, and join unanimous to chant Thy praise. The time will come, when Thy praise shall resound from every corner of the peopled earth ; when thine altars shall blaze on every hill and man shall celebrate Thy wondrous works from the rising to the setting day.

Thus sang ABEL, seated by his beloved THIRZA. He ceas'd ; yet she, fill'd with a Divine transport, seem'd still to hear. At length encircling him in her snowy arms, while her eyes beam'd tenderness, she cried O my love ! The music of thy lips raises my mind to God. Thy endearing care not only protects my feeble body ; but under thy direction my soul takes her flight : thou art her guide amidst the obscurity of doubt
and

and darkness ; thy wisdom dissipates the clouds, and turns her astonishment into devout ecstasy. How often have I, inspir'd by gratitude, render'd thanks to GOD MOST HIGH, for having created me for thee, and thee for me. O my love ! unanimous in every wish we were form'd to bless each other.

While she spoke, conjugal tenderness diffus'd inexpressible graces on every word and every gesture. ABEL remained silent, but his soften'd look, while he snatched her to his bosom, and the tear just starting from his glitt'ning eye, spoke unutterable love. Thus happy was man, thus pure his delights. The fruitful earth refresh'd and fitted him for action by her bounties. Contented with necessaries, he asks of Heaven only Virtue and Health. Luxury and Discontent had not yet fill'd him with insatiable desires, which inventive of numberless wants, bury happiness under a load of splendid miseries. An union of heart then form'd the nuptial tie. No fear of wasting penury, or the frown of a tyrannic parent ; no low ambition ; no want of land or gold, then kept the soft maid from the fond bosom of the youth she lov'd. These cares are thy gifts O Luxury !

ABEL and THIRZA were still seated,
when

when ADAM and EVE entered the bower. They had listen'd with delight, to the song of ABEL, and had heard THIRZA vent the effusions of her fondness. They now embraced their children while their hearts expanded with parental affection, and a lively joy glow'd on their cheeks.

MAHALA, CAIN's spouse, had followed the foot-steps of her mother, and had been witness of the happiness of her brother and sister. Her pure mind was free from envy, baleful passion! Yet dejection sat on her countenance, a mild languor appear'd in her eyes, sorrow had faded the bloom once seen on her now pallid cheek. She had heard THIRZA express her gratitude to Heaven for having been created for ABEL, and he for her. Their mutual tenderness forc'd tears from her eyes, and sighs from her pain'd bosom, while sad remembrance drew the comparison between the two husbands. But soon she wip'd away the pearly drops, and with a graceful smile enter'd the bower, where, with cordial affection, she saluted her brother and sister.

At the same time, CAIN passing by the fragrant shade, had heard ABEL's melodious voice, and had beheld his delighted father tenderly embrace him. At this sight

fight envy fix'd her envenom'd sting in his heart, and he, giving a furious look at the bower, cry'd, What signs of joy are here ! What fond caresses ! I too might sing, were my days like his, spent in idly reclining in the shade, while the flocks were sporting, or cropping the green herbage : but I am not made for singing. Rugged labour is my inheritance ; tho' I turn the glebe : tho' I break the stubborn earth, curst for my father's sin with barrenness, yet my fatigues meet with no such fond rewards : did my soft brother but toil like me, one day beneath the scorching sun, 'twou'd spoil his music ; he'd trill no songs. —What more embraces ! how I hate this effeminate dalliance ! but if that fair youth be pleas'd, no matter what I hate.

CAIN then with hasty steps walk'd on. He had been overheard, and his discontent had filled the happy family with deep concern. MAHALA became still more pale, and dissolving in tears sunk down by the side of THIRZA ; while EVE reclining on her husband, lamented the obduracy of her first-born. O my much-lov'd parents, cry'd ABEL, I will follow my unhappy brother, will embrace him, and say whatever fraternal
lov

love can dictate to engage his affections. I'll try every art of persuasion to make him forget his anger. I will not leave him till he promises to love me. I have search'd into the very bottom of my soul, to know by what means I may regain him and find a way to his heart. Sometimes I have kindled his extinguish'd love ; but alas ! too soon the gloom returns, and fullen sadness damps the sacred flame.

With troubled look ADAM answered, I myself, my beloved ABEL, will go to your brother. Reason and paternal love shall unite their force to combat his obduracy. He will not, surely resist the authority and tenderness of an afflicted father ! O CAIN, CAIN, with what torturing cares dost thou fill my heart ! The tumult of tyrannic passions has chased from thy soul every sentiment of love and virtue. O sin ! fatal sin ! terrible is the desolation thou spreadest in the human breast. What gloomy presages torture my sad bosom, when I look thro' futurity, and behold its ravages among my unhappy offspring ! Thus spoke the father of Mankind. Grief sat heavy on his venerable brow. He left the bower, and with hasty step sought his first-born.

CAIN beheld him coming, and ceasing
B from

from his labour, thus began : What means this sternness in my father's look ? it was with no such air of severity thou cam'st to embrace my brother, Why do thine eyes reproach me ?

Thou wouldst not my son have read reproach in mine eyes, return'd ADAM, wert thou not conscious thou deserv'st it. Yes Cain, thou deserv'st reproach, and thy offended father is come to thee in all the bitterness of grief.

Without any love, interrupted CAIN, that sensation is reserv'd for ABEL.

With love also, resum'd ADAM, Heaven is my witness, I love thee with a father's fondness. These tears, these inquietudes and anxious cares that agitate me, and no less her who brought thee forth with pain, have their source in the most affectionate love. 'Tis this tender love and concern for thy happiness, that casts a gloom over our days. 'Tis this love that causes the silence of the night to be interrupted by our sighs and lamentations. O CAIN, CAIN ! didst thou love us, it would be thy most earnest care to dry up our tears, and to dispel that cloud of grief which darkens our days and fills them with horror. Ah ! if thou still retainest in thy breast any regard for the
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omniscient CREATOR, to whom the inmost recesses of thine heart are open : if the least spark of filial love to us thy parents still remains in thy obdurate soul, I conjure thee by that regard, and that love, to restore to us our lost peace :—Restore, O my son, our extinguish'd joy. Nourish no longer against thy brother, against thy brother who loves thee with a sincere affection, this ruthless hatred. He longs to embrace thee. Gladly would he clear from thy mind the tares of discontent with which it is over-run. O CAIN ! thou wert my first-born, the beginning of my strength. When thine infant eyes open'd to the light I beheld thee with all the father in my heart. Wherefore then is thy soul disquieted ? Why does envy dwell in thy bosom, because I rejoice too in thy brother : His refin'd and exalted piety drew from us tears of joy, and we, in the sweet transport, caress'd him. The angels who surround us, applaud every good action : the ALMIGHTY himself looks down from Heaven's high arch, and regards with complacency the grateful offerings of a thankful heart. Would'st thou change the invariable nature of beauty and goodness ? This is not in our power ; and if it were, CAIN, how must we be
du-

deprav'd before we could wish to withstand the noble joy, the tender the exquisite feelings that high rais'd devotion and exalted virtue create in the enraptur'd soul. Darkness, storms, and the thunder of Heaven call forth no gentle smile on the human countenance; as little do the agitation of boisterous passions cause joy to spring up in the human heart.

CAIN sternly answered, Is reproach then all I am to hear from a father's lips? If my face does not wear a pleasing smile; if tears of tenderness do not follow each other down my cheeks, am I for this to be branded with detestable vices? Born with more firmness, bold enterprizes and severe toils have ever been my choice. Nature has stamp'd on my forehead a manly gravity. I cannot weep or smile at every trifle. Does the tow'ring eagle coo like the timorous dove?

ADAM with majestic gravity return'd, Thou deceivest thyself: thou harbour'st in thy bosom horrid sentiments that will rankle in thine heart, and render thee wretched if they are not stifled. O CAIN! it is no manly gravity that is stamped on thy brow; it is envy, sorrow, and gloomy discontent. These are seen in thine eyes;
the

disturbance of thy mind is visible in thy whole deportment. Thine inward dejection, O my son ! has spread a cloud over all thy prospects. Hence arise thy continual murmurs, thy peevishness and passion during the labours of the day : hence thy unsocial aversion to us : hence the black melancholy, to which thou art a prey. Tell, oh, tell thine affectionate father, what will give thee ease. It is his ardent wish that thy days may pass serene as the vernal morn. What cause hast thou O CAIN ! to be disquieted ? are not all the springs of happiness open to thee ? Indulgent Nature offers to thee all her beauties. The good, the useful, the agreeable are not they thine as well as ours ? Why then dost thou leave the blessings of Heaven untasted, and complainest of wretchedness ? Is it because thou art dissatisfied with the portion of happiness the Divine bounty has been pleased to bestow upon fallen man ? Is not every blessing the undeserv'd gift of infinite goodness ? Dost thou envy the lot of angels ? Know that the angels were susceptible of discontent, and by aspiring to become Gods, forfeited Heaven. Would'st thou arraign the dispensations of the Most HIGH towards his sinful creatures ? While
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the whole creation in universal concert praises the CREATOR, shall guilty man, a worm sprung from the mud, dare to lift up his head, and carp at him whose infinite wisdom regulates the wide expanse of Heaven; to whom all futurity is present, and who by his unerring providence, can cause evil to be productive of good? Be chearful, O my son; cast from thee this sadness and discontent; let it no longer disturb thy thoughts; no longer throw a frightful gloom over the natural serenity of thy countenance. Open thine heart to every social affection, and look with grateful complacency on all the innocent pleasures which Nature displays before thee.

What need of all these exhortations! cried CAIN, do I not know that, was my heart at ease, every thing around me would give me delight? but can I silence the storm, or bid the impetuous torrent flow in a placid stream? I am born of woman, and from my nativity sentenced to misery. On my unhappy head the ALMIGHTY has poured forth the cup of malediction. It is not for me Nature displays her beauties, nor do the streams of bliss, of which you take such plenteous draughts, flow for me.

Alas! my son, said ADAM, with a voice
render'd

render'd almost inarticulate by his strong emotions and his tears : 'tis but too true, that the divine malediction was pronounc'd on all born of woman : but why, O why should'st thou believe that God has pour'd on thee our first-born, more of wrath, than on us, the first transgressors. No, this is not, this cannot be the case ; Sovereign Goodness contradicts it. No, my dear son, thou wert not born for misery ; the beneficent CREATOR never call'd any of his creatures into being to render them unhappy. Man may, indeed, by his own folly make himself wretched, if he suffers his reason to yield to impetuous passions, ignorant of true felicity, he may render his life a burthen, and convert what is naturally good and salutary into a destructive poison. Thou canst not silence the storm, nor stop the rapidity of the torrent ; but thou canst dispel the clouds of discontent that obscure thy reason, and restore to thy soul its original light. Thou canst force into subjection every impetuous passion, every irregular desire. Gain, O my son, this noble victory over thyself, and it will refine thy sentiments ; thy whole soul will be illumin'd : darkness and distress will vanish like the mist of the dawn before the solar ray. There was a time,

time, my dear son, when I have seen thee even shed tears ; when from the gratulations of conscience, joy hath spread itself through all thy powers ; delightful fruit of virtuous actions ! I refer it to thyself, CAIN, wert thou not then happy ? was not thy soul like the clear azure of the heavens, unclouded, unspotted. Recover that beam of the DEITY, Reason : let her clear light direct thy steps, and Virtue, her inseparable companion, will restore joy and permanent felicity to thy purifi'd heart. Listen, O CAIN ! and comply with the advice of thy father. The first injunction that reason lays on thee is, to embrace thy brother. With what joy will he receive thy endearments ! with what tenderness will he return them !

Father, reply'd CAIN, when at the heat of noon I rest from my labour I will embrace him. I cannot now leave the field. I promise I will obey thee, and embrace my brother : but—while I breathe, my firm soul will never be dissolv'd to that effeminate weakness that so endears him to you, and makes your eyes run over with transport. To a softness like this, we all owe the curse denounc'd against us. When in Paradise, you weakly suffered yourself to be overcome by a woman's tears. But what do I say,
Dare

Dare I reproach my father ? No, my venerable parent, I reverence thee, and am silent. Thus spake CAIN, and return'd to his labour.

ADAM remain'd motionless, with his hands and eyes rais'd to Heaven. At length in a tone of deep distress, he cry'd O CAIN, CAIN ! I have deserved these cutting reproaches ; but should'st thou not have spar'd thy father ? should'st thou not have forbore this cruel charge, which, like a clap of thunder, shakes my tortur'd soul ? Ah me ! thus will my latest posterity, when immers'd in sin, they feel the pangs of inseparable from guilt rise up against my dust, and curse the first sinner.

Having thus spoke, ADAM, with pensive eyes fix'd on the earth, slowly withdrew. The groans that burst from the agitated bosom of the afflicted father, now struck even this obdurate son with remorse, and he cry'd gazing after him, What a wretch am I ! How could I reproach so good, so tender a parent ! How have I loaded him with grief ! I still hear his groans—I see him lift his supplicating hands to Heaven--Perhaps, vile as I am, he prays even for me ; for me who have torn his heart with keen distress, O that I too could pray ! but I am a monster

ster—Hell is in my bosom, and like a ravaging whirlwind, I destroy the peace of all around me. Return, O reason, return ! Return, O virtue ! chase from my troubled soul these wild and darkening passions ;—Still—still he prays. O how his emotions reproach me !—His claspt hands are again rais'd in agony.—He seems spent—I will at his feet implore his pardon. O my rash tongue—my rebellious heart !

CAIN then ran towards ADAM, who was leaning against a tree, with his weeping eyes fixed on the ground : He threw himself on the earth, and cry'd, Forgive me—forgive me, O my father ! I deserve thou should'st turn from me with abhorrence. I abhor myself ; but while I am thus humbled before thee in the dust—while I thus grasp thy knees, despise not my repentance.—Despise not my tears. My harden'd heart resisted thine exhortations with a swollen pride : but O my injured father ! thy distress and thy groans have melted my obdurate soul. A beam from Heaven has enlighten'd my benighted mind. With unfeign'd sorrow and deep contrition I see my folly—I see my guilt—I know that I am unworthy of thy love. Yet, O my dear and venerable parent ! reject not these
peni-

penitential tears——reject not the sincere submission of my heart : O my father ! I implore pardon of God, of thee, and of my brother.

Rise. my son, rise, cry'd ADAM, affectionately embracing him, and raising him to his bosom : the MOST HIGH, who dwelleth in the Heavens, beholds with complacency these tears of repentance. Embrace me, my son, and receive thy joyful father's forgiveness, and cordial embrace. Blest time, happy hour ! in which my son, my first-born, restores our tranquillity. O my child ! joy, excess of joy, has weaken'd all my powers. Support me, my son, and let us hasten to thy brother, that my satisfaction may be compleated, by beholding your mutual endearments.

ADAM, leaning on CAIN, walk'd towards the pastures. ABEL, with his mother, and sisters, met them in the grove ; they had follow'd ADAM at a distance ; they had seen his emotions, and with delight had beheld the tears and repentance of CAIN. ABEL the moment he saw his brother, flew to him with open arms : he clasp'd them around with a strenuous grasp, unable for some time to give vent, but from his eyes, to the sweet effusions of his heart

—At length he cry'd, O my brother !—
my dear brother !—thou then lovest me—
lovest me with fondness !—let me hear thy
lips pronounce that thou still lovest me,
and my happiness will be complete. Yes
my brother, answer'd CAIN, while he prest
him with a warm embrace, I do indeed,
sincerely love thee. May I hope thou wilt
forgive my having so long embitter'd thy
days by my unkindness, and the fury of my
boisterous passions ? I too my brother, was
unhappy, but reason, like the rapid flash of
Heaven, broke through the gloom, and has
dispers'd the baleful tempest. Never, ABEL,
never may'st thou remember my former
darkness.

The delighted ABEL with increas'd rap-
ture, reply'd, Never, my dear CAIN ! be
the past utterly forgotten. Who would
dwell upon the distressful illusions of a
morning dream, when they might, like me,
awake to real happiness, surrounded by
multiplied delights ? O my dear brother !
words have not the power to express my
transports—to express the sweet joy with
which my soul is filled, while I thus press
thee, my friend ! my brother ! to my
throbbing heart.

EVE, who with tender delight beheld
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the moving scene, sprang to her sons, and throwing her maternal arms around them both, while delicious tears of joyful sympathy ran down her cheeks, cry'd, O my sons ! my dearly beloved children ! never did I since I have borne the tender name of mother, feel such rapturous sensations. The griefs, which like the weight of a cumbrous mountain oppress'd my soul, are now removed. My heart will no more be torn by the unhappy disagreement of those I carry'd in my womb, and nourish'd with my breast. I now shall see—transported I shall see, peace and harmony, joy and love dwell among my happy offspring. As the fruitful vine is blest by the thirsty labourer, when refresh'd by its delicious fruit, so will my now united children bless me as the instrument of their felicity. Let me, my sons, join you in this sweet embrace. Let me too, my daughters, press you to my bosom. With what joy do I participate in this unspeakable ecstasy visible in the faces of my dear children, and on that of my much lov'd husband ! She then turn'd towards ADAM ; her matron lip met his, while conjugal tenderness and parental love were seen blended in her still glistening eye.

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The beauteous sisters, tho' silent, snar'd the general rapture. MAHALA, CAIN's spouse, when disengag'd from her mother's fond embrace, said, while vivacity and joy sparkled in her alter'd features, Let us my dearest THIRZA, chuse the fairest flowers, to deck our bower, celightful seat of peace and happiness ! We'll strip the bending branches of their luscious load to form their rich repast. This day, this happy day, we'll, with united hearts, welcome the new-born joy. She then with nimble feet, followed by THIRZA, ran to prepare the sweet refreshing banquet.

ADAM and his spouse, attended by their sons, walk'd slowly on. Ere they had reach'd the bower, the active sisters had bespread the green carpet ; fruits of various sorts offered their juices, while variegated flowers lent their odours, and chear'd the eye with their bright tints. Their feast was elegant, but it was the elegance of nature : no darts of death, hid in rich sauces, struck with inhospitable blow the unthinking guest. Contentment sat on every face ; in every eye beam'd sweet complacency. Social converse and unmix'd delight gave rapidity to the flight of time, while the unheeded hours brought on mild evening.

T H E

[25]

T H E

D E A T H

O F

A B E L.

B O O K II.

WHILE the first family of the world were in the bower, indulging domestic bliss, the father of mankind thus spoke : It is now, my children, you experience the delight of self-approbation. The recollection of a good action, diffuses a pleasing serenity through the soul. Nothing my sons, nothing but the practice of virtue, can render us truly happy. Virtue makes us capable of the enjoyments of those pure spirits, who surround the throne of God. While we follow the dictates of reason, while we enjoy with gratitude and love, the blessing of nature, and have humble hope and confidence in God our Maker, we anticipate the delights of Heaven ; but if we suffer our passions to degrade and subdue us,

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inquietude

inquietude, distress, and misery will darken all our prospects; in vain will the heavens smile, in vain will the fruitful earth pour forth her bounties. Believe me, my dear children! believe a father, made wise by his own fatal experience, the joys of sin are followed by shame, sorrow, and bitter repentance. O EVE, continu'd ADAM, once the dear partner of my distress as now of my happiness, could we have thought, when with streaming eyes, and hearts torn with anguish, we took leave of Paradise, that so much felicity was to be found on earth? Never will the horrors of that dreadful hour be effac'd from my mind. My father, return'd ABEL, if the recital of past griefs will not be displeasing: if the recollection will not throw a gloom on this happy hour of reconciliation and joy, gladly would I hear from thee the events of thy life, from that fatal moment to the present time.

All look'd on ADAM with the eye of expectation: all seem'd pleas'd with the request of ABEL, and the first of men reply'd. What, my children, can I refuse in this joyful gratulation? I will relate to you the principal occurrences of those times of affliction and grief, of consolation and
mercy

mercy, when GOD, even that GOD whom we had offended, deign'd to cheer by his promises, fallen man. Where, O EVE, dear companion in every woe and in every delight! Where shall I begin the interesting narrative? Shall it be on our first leaving the garden of GOD?—But I see thy tears already flow. My tears, return'd our general mother, are now those of thankfulness and humble love, not the bitter ones of shame, sorrow, and sad regret. Begin, dear ADAM, at my taking a last look on the forfeited seat of bliss. In that dreadful moment shame and remorse for the past, and agonizing fear for the future, rais'd such a conflict in my wretched bosom, that I sunk into thine arms, wishing for the immediate execution of a threatening, that was to confound me with my original dust. What I then felt, permit me to describe. Thy tenderness for me, will, I know, make thee pass too lightly over the melting scene.

The angel of the LORD, on whose countenance shone benignity and soft compassion, was commissioned to drive us out of Paradise. He sooth'd us with gentle words, cheer'd us with promises, and bid us hope and put our trust in the clemency of our All-merciful CREATOR; but the sword in

his hand flam'd terrible. At Eden's gate he stopp'd. I guard, said he, this passage : no more must enter here aught that defiles. We were now travellers on the vast earth : Paradise was irretrievably lost ; the country we cross'd seem'd one wide and dreary desert ; no fruit trees no flow'ry shrubs, no fertile spot chear'd our sad eyes. ADAM held my hand, I frequently cast despairing looks toward the seat of lost felicity, not presuming to raise my guilty eyes to the victim of my folly, and companion of my misery. Sorrow bent his head to the ground, and we walk'd on distress'd and silent. ADAM survey'd with anxious eye, the uncultivated earth, then cast a pitying look at me, and to soothe my overflowing sorrows, gently press'd me to his breast.

We had ascended an high hill, and now going down the declivity, every step diminish'd our view of Eden ; my heart was rent with agony, and my grief depriv'd me of motion. Now, now, cry'd I sobbing, I behold for the last time Paradise, my native soil : blest seat of innocence and joy, for the last time I behold thee ! Ye flowers, once cultivated by my careful hand, Who now enjoys your sweets ? what eye is charm'd by your bright colours ? Ye trees,
who

who now shall prop your loaded branches;
who now shall taste your rich produce;
Delightful bowers farewell—farewell dear
shades; no more shall these sad eyes be-
hold your verdure, banish'd for ever from
those sweet retreats! 'Twas there dear
partner of my sin and shame! thou askedst
of Heaven an help-mate to double and to
share thy bliss. Alas! thy prayer was
granted, and thine own side produc'd thy
thy ruin. Our MAKER form'd us pure
and spotless; while innocent, the happy spi-
rits, who behold the face of GOD, deign'd
with complacency to visit our blest abode;
deign'd to instruct us in our duty; to warn
us of our danger. What are we now?—
dreadful degradation! O ADAM! thy per-
fidious wife has involved thee, by her se-
ductions, in sin and sorrow. Yet dear ac-
complice, to whom with awe I raise my
pitying eye, do not hate me. Thou hast
a right to curse me;—but, O dear spouse!
if I may still call thee by that tender name,
use it not: for thou art my sole support.
By that GOD which we have offended, by
the chearing promises of his indulgent
goodness, I conjure thee not to forsake me.
All I request is, that I may follow and serve
thee.—I will watch thy looks—I will an-

ticipate thy commands; happy, if my obedience, my weak services, gain from thee a pitying smile, a look of soft compassion.

Here my strength and voice fail'd, I was sinking to the earth; but my dear husband caught me in his arms, and pressed me with a look of affection to his heart. O EVE, he cry'd, whom I still and always will, tenderly love, let us not heighten our keen distress by self reproach. Our God, in the midst of punishment, has remember'd mercy. He has softened his chastisements by his promises. Veil'd as these promises are in sacred obscurity, the DIVINE Goodness appears with sensible radiance, and we WILL hope in his mercy. We will not reproach ourselves, we will not reproach each other. O my dearest! had our God only consulted his just indignation, where should we have been now? We will praise him for his goodness, our lips shall bless his name. Our voice shall only be heard in thanksgiving, humble supplications, and expressions of endearment and love. Our JUDGE is omniscient, with him there is no darkness. He sees the humiliation of our souls: He beholds our gratitude, our sincere contrition: He knows our weakness, and will accept of our feeble efforts

efforts to regain perfection. Embrace me my dearest wife ! let us by mutual tenderness, and acts of kindness, endeavour to alleviate our calamity. ADAM ceas'd speaking. His words and tender caresses gave ease to my oppress'd heart, and strength and activity to my enfeebled limbs. We proceeded to the bottom of the hill, where we found a grove of poplars, which extended to the foot of a rock.

EVE, then giving her husband a look of affection, was silent, and ADAM thus continued :

We advanc'd, my children, thro' the grove, and found in the rock a cavity that form'd a grotto. See, dearest EVE, said I, see the convenience offer'd by nature : this grotto will afford us shelter, and this pure spring, that murmuring flows from its side, will slake our thirst. We'll here prepare our lodging : but my dearest wife, before we sleep, I must secure the entrance, to prevent our being surpriz'd by nocturnal enemies. What enemies ? return'd EVE, with emotion : What enemies have we to fear ? Hast thou not remark'd, my love, said I, that the curse of our sin has fallen on the whole creation ? the bands of friendship are broken between the animals, and the weak are now become the prey of the

strong. I have seen a young lion pursue with fatal rage a frightened roe. I have beheld a war in the air among the birds.

We can no longer claim a right to command the animals: the spotted leopard, the brindled lion and fierce tyger, no more fawn on us, nor play their wanton gambols in our sight: but cast against us frightful roarings, while their blazing eyes threaten destruction. We will try to gain by our kindness those among the beasts that are most tractable, and Providence has given us reason, which will teach us to secure ourselves from the most savage.

EVE with timid looks, keeping me in her sight, went to gather flowers and leaves to form our bed, and fruit for our repast. In the mean time I secur'd the entrance of the grotto with entwin'd brambles. My spouse, hasten'd by fear, quickly perform'd her task, and returning, rested herself before me on the tender grass.

We soon after enter'd the grotto, and seating ourselves on our bed of intermingled leaves and flowers, began our frugal meal, season'd, however with mutual endearments and grateful converse; when a gloomy cloud suddenly obscur'd the declining sun. It spread over our heads with encreasing dark-

darkness, and the black veil which cover'd the earth seem'd to presage the destruction of all nature. A tempestuous wind arose ; it bellowed in the mountains : it overthrew the trees of the forest : flames darted from the clouds, and loud bursts of thunder augmented the horrors of the tremendous scene. EVE, struck with terror, threw herself, scarce breathing, into my arms, and clinging to my breast, cry'd, He comes ! —he comes ! in flames he comes to bring the threaten'd death : —How dreadful —For my sin he comes to give death to all nature ! —O ADAM ! —O my love ? —Here her voice fail'd and she remain'd trembling and pale on my bosom. Be calm, my love ! I cry'd ; compose thyself, we will with bended knees and contrite hearts, adore our God, who in terrible majesty comes riding on the clouds. His thunders proclaim his approach ; the darting fires mark his passage. O thou ETERNAL, who with benignity and goodness temper'dst the insupportable radiance of Thy dignity, when I first came from Thy creating hand, Thou art terrible in judgment, yet suffer us not to be consum'd by Thy wrath. Destroy us not O God, in Thy hot displeasure.

We then prostrated ourselves at the entrance of the grotto, and with pale countenances and trembling lips, offer'd up our adorations, expecting when our awful JUDGE would from the clouds pronounce by his thunders, Die ye ungrateful ! and let the earth that bore you be dissolv'd by the fire of my indignation.

The clouds now pour'd forth their torrents : livid flames no longer flash'd from the heavens, and the thunder roll'd at a distance, I rais'd my head from the ground saying, The ALMIGHTY, my dear EVE, hath passed by. He hath not destroyed the earth : we are yet permitted to live. He hath remembered his promises. ETERNAL WISDOM, EVERLASTING TRUTH repenteth not. He will fulfil the designs of his mercy ; and thy seed O EVE ! shall bruise the head of the serpent.

We arose and were comforted. The heavens resum'd their brightness, and the setting sun spread a mild radiance thro' the sky, like the luminous track we used to behold in Eden, when legions of angels were carried above our heads in the flying clouds. Silence reign'd over the moist fields, the herbage and flowers, still glittering with the drops, glow'd with more than usual beauty.

beauty. The departing sun darted on us his last beams, while we celebrated with reverential awe, and thankful love, the wisdom, power, and mercy of our CREATOR.

Thus pass'd the first day after our leaving Paradise. The ruddy evening gave place to the grey twilight, and soon the earth was only enlighten'd by the moon's feeble rays. We now the first time were chill'd by the cold of the night, though a few hours before we had almost fainted under the ardent rays of the scorching sun at noon. Our beneficent MAKER had condescended to gird our loins with the skins of beasts, before our leaving Paradise, to show that he had not withdrawn from us his succouring hand; in these we wrapp'd ourselves, and lying down on our leafy bed, hand in hand, waited the approach of sleep.

Sleep, the relief of the weary, at length came, but it was unaccompanied with that soft ease, that sweet delight, that blest our slumbers while innocent: our imagination then presented none but smiling and agreeable images. Inquietude, fear, and remorse, did not then keep us waking the tedious hours of darkness, nor mingle in our dreams with fantastic phantoms. The heavens were however calm, and our rest undisturb'd

undisturb'd: but oh! how different from that delicious night, when I led thee, my spouse, for the first time to the nuptial bower! The flowers and odoriferous shrubs charm'd with new sweetness. Never was the warbling of the nightingale so harmonious: never did the pale moon shine with such radiance:—But why do I dwell on images that awaken my grief, now hush'd to silence?

We slept till the morning sun had dry'd up the limpid dew. When we awoke, we found ourselves refresh'd and fit for labour, and enjoy'd with delight and gratitude the harmony of the birds, who were celebrating with their sweetest notes, the renew'd light: their number was yet but small; for there were then no other animals on this earth, but those who instructed by divine instinct, had after the fall, fled from Paradise, that the garden of the LORD might not be defil'd by death.

We offer'd up our adorations at the entrance of the grotto; after which I said to EVE, We will, my love, go farther and view this immense country: our all-merciful God has given us liberty of choice. We may fix our abode where the earth is most fertile; where nature is most profuse
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of her beauties. Seest thou, EVE, that river, which, like a huge serpent, winds in bright slopes through the meadows. The hill, on its bank, seems, at this distance, like a garden full of trees, and its top is covered with verdure. My dear spouse, return'd EVE, pressing my hand to her bosom, I shall follow with delight the steps of thee, my conductor and guard. We will pursue our walk towards the hill.

We were going on when we saw, just above our heads, a bird fly with feeble wing: its feathers were rough and disorder'd: it cast forth plaintive cries, and, having flutter'd a little in the air, sunk down without strength among the bushes. EVE went to seek it, and beheld another lie without motion on the grass, which that we had before seen seem'd to lament. My spouse, stooping over it, examin'd it with fix'd attention, and, in vain, try'd to rouse it from what she believ'd to be sleep. It will not awake said she to me, in a fearful voice, laying the bird from her trembling hand;—It will not awake!—It will never wake more! She then burst into tears, and speaking to the lifeless bird, said, Alas! the poor bird that pierc'd my ears with cries, was perhaps, thy mate. It is I—It is I! unhappy that I
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am, who have brought misery and grief on every creature ! For my sin these pretty harmless animals are punish'd. Her tears redoubled. What an event ! said she, turning to me, How stiff and cold it is ! It has neither voice nor motion ! Its joints no longer bend, its limbs refuse their office. Speak ADAM, is this death ? Ah it is—How I tremble ! An icy cold runs thro' my bones. If the death with which we are threaten'd is like this, how terrible !——What, dearest ADAM ! would become of me, if, like the feather'd mate of this poor bird, I am left behind to mourn ? Or what of thee, if, death tear me from thy fond arms ? Should GOD create another EVE to fill my forfeited place in thy lov'd bosom, she will not—cannot love like me, thy partner in distress and banishment :—Unable to say more, she wept, she sobb'd, and her expressive eyes, tenderly fix'd on mine, made my feeling heart partake her anguish. I press'd her to my breast : kiss'd her cheek, and mix'd my tears with her's. Cease, dearest EVE, I cry'd, these fond complaints. Dry up thy tears. Have confidence in the SUPREME BEING, who governs all His creatures by His infinite wisdom. Though we cannot penetrate into
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designs of His providence: though his majestic tribunal is surrounded by darkness, we may rest assur'd, that Mercy and Love remain near His throne. Why, my love, should we anticipate misfortunes? Why should we, guided by a gloomy imagination, seek for them in futurity? Was our reason given us only to make us wretched? Shall we ungratefully turn our eyes from the repeated instances of the loving kindness and tender mercy of our God, at the hazard of plunging ourselves into misery by our blindness? It is His wisdom, and His goodness that regulate and appoint what shall befall us. Let us with humble confidence proceed under his direction, and devoutly acquiesce in his appointments, without seeking to know what he hath not condescended to reveal.

We now advanc'd to the eminence. Its gentle ascent was almost cover'd with bushes and fertile shrubs. On the summit, in the midst of fruit trees, grew a lofty cedar, whose thick branches form'd an extensive shade, which was render'd more cool and delightful, by a limpid brook, that ran in various windings among the flowers. This spot afforded a prospect so immense, that the sight was only bounded by the dusky
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air; the sky forming a concave around us, that appear'd, where-ever we turn'd, to touch the distant mountains. Here, said I my dearest love, we will fix our abode. This spot is a faint shadow of Paradise, whose blissful bowers we must never more behold. Receive us majestic cedar, under thy shade. Ye trees of various taste and hue, refresh and sustain us with your delicious fruits: never shall we gather the sweet produce without gratitude: it shall be the reward of our attentive care and laborious cultivation. O GOD OMNIPOTENT, who reign'st in Heaven! look with a propitious eye on this our dwelling. Lend an ear of compassion to the supplications, receive with favour the praises and thanksgivings which we, Thy frail offending creatures, shall never cease to send up towards Thy celestial throne, through the spreading branches of these trees. Here my dearest wife, we shall obtain, by the sweat of our brows, our support. Under these shades, thou shalt bring forth with pain. From hence, will our offspring spread themselves over the wide earth. Here too, death shall one day visit us, and we shall be confounded with
our

our original dust. O LORD GOD our Maker! shower down Thy blessings on the profane abode of us sinners. While I thus utter'd the devout breathings of my soul, EVE was prostrate on the earth by my side: her hands were elevated: her eyes swam in tears, and were rais'd towards Heaven in holy extasy.

I now began to construct our habitation under the shade of the spreading cedar. I fix'd in the earth a circle of strong stakes, and interwove them with flexible twigs. While I was thus employed, EVE was conveying the stream among the flowers; gathering ripe fruits; supporting with small sticks, the bending stalks of the variegated shrubs, and pruning their luxurious branches. Then it was that we began to eat our bread by the sweat of our brows.

I went to the river to fetch reeds to cover our cottage, there I saw five ewes, white as the southern clouds, and with them a young ram, feeding by the side of the water. I approach'd them without noise, fearing they would fly me, like the tyger and the lion; who, before our fatal transgression, used to play with the kid or the lamb at our feet. But instead of endeavouring to escape me, they suffered me to
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strook their fleeces, and I drove them before me, with a reed to our hill ; where I intended they should for the future feed. EVE was busy in erecting a bower, and did not immediately on my return, observe my little flock ; but they soon discovered themselves by their bleating. She started at the sound, and dropp'd the boughs from her hand thro' fear : but soon recovering, she cry'd, with joy in her countenance, O ADAM ! they are gentle and fond as in Paradise. Welcome, pretty animals, ye shall live with us : All ye want is here : Ye need not stray ; for here are flowery pastures, fragrant herbage, and a clear spring. Your innocent sporting will give us delight while we attend our trees and flowers. Yes harmless creatures ! she continued, patted their woolly backs, ye shall be my flock, and I will be your indulgent mistress.

Our little dwelling was now compleated, and we were enjoying the cool breezes at its entrance, and silently surveying the distant country, when EVE said, My dearest love, how beautifully is the prospect before us variegated ! How fertile, how full of blessings is this earth, which we thought so barren ! Let us to the fruits and flowers, which the hill already yields, add those
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that grow on its borders, and our abode will have a faint resemblance of Eden's delightful shades. Ah! she added with a sigh, it will then bear but the same proportion of likeness to Paradise, as that does to the blissful seats of the angels, which the heavenly messengers, who in our happy days of innocence, condescended to visit us, described in such glowing colours. O thou garden of the LORD, how delightful were thy sweet retreats! how did thy gay tints charm the eye! how did thy luscious fruits, thy aromatic fragrance feast the senses! Whatever necessity requir'd, all the useful, all the agreeable, were there in rich profusion. O my spouse! compared with that luxurious spot, what is all about us but dry sterility? This earth, under the Divine malediction, seems unable to produce in the same land that sweet variety, that happy diversity that charm'd us in Eden's bowers. We must now seek the different productions in distant places. I have seen too, that not only animals are the prey of death; he stretches his wide domain, he tyrannizes over the whole earth, and makes rude havock in the world of vegetation. O ADAM? what fruits have I beheld drop from their branches, spoilt, and full of black
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rottenness ? What flowers wither on their stalks ! The trees are disrob'd of their verdure by the despoiler Death. I have observ'd too, that young leaves supply the place of those that are fallen, and that the seeds of dead flowers, cast into the earth, produce new ones. We ADAM, must thus one day, wither and die, and our children shall successively grow up, and flourish.

She ceas'd speaking, and I deeply affected by her words, made answer : Dear EVE were our loss only the gay verdure, the fruits and flowers of Paradise, it would scarce deserve a sigh : but alas ! we are expell'd from the sacred spot which our MAKER bless'd by his immediate presence. There, veiling his insupportable radiance, he walk'd among the groves, while all Nature celebrated the approach of the DEITY in reverential silence, Tho' form'd of the dust, my prostrations were accepted. The ALMIGHTY condescended to hear his creature, and vouchsaf'd to answer, with benignity, a frail worm. Alas ! we have by our disobedience, lost this priviledge : guilty as we are, we can no more hope to converse with infinite purity. This calls for our lamentation and our tears. Will the God of Heaven visit a land under his curse ! Will the
Most

Most HOLY dwell among sinners ? He looks down from the seats of bliss ; He regards with an eye of compassion, our penitence and tears, and His bounties exceed every hope our wretchedness could form. Even the bright spirits of heaven are his messengers ; they execute His orders on the dark globe : but alas ! our polluted eyes are unworthy to behold them ! They perform the task assign'd, without deigning to become visible to sinful man, and then soar, with hasty wing, from this seat of corruption, now fit only to be the residence of beings under the curse of their Sovereign.

Thus we were holding converse, and casting our melancholy eyes on the country before us, when a resplendent cloud descending, glided towards us ; and rested on our hill : from it stept a radiant form, wearing on his face a majestic smile. We hastily arose ; we bowed our heads, and the celestial messenger thus spoke : He whose throne is in the highest Heaven, has heard your complaints. Go, said he, and inform those children of affliction, that my presence is not circumscrib'd in the circuit of Heaven, it extends to all the works of My hands. Whence has the sun his invigorating heat ? Who teaches the stars to run their courses ?
Who

Why does the earth bring forth its fruit, and day and night regularly succeed each other? Who preserves the various animals? In me they live, move, and have their being. What keeps thee, ADAM, from sinking into corruption? I am near thee; I sustain thee by My power; I guard thee by My providence; and know the secret breathings of thy soul, and all the purposes of thine heart.

The luminous sphere, that encompass'd the angel, reach'd even to me. Filled with devout extasy, I lifted up to him my dazzled eyes. How great beyond conception, said I, are the favours of the LORD! He beholds our wretchedness with compassion: He sends His Angels to give us comfort. O effulgent spirit! I stand confounded and abash'd before thee. How shall I, sinful man that I am, dare to speak to thee, the unoffending messenger of Heaven, arrayed in light and purity? Yet O benevolent angel! permit me to mention the sad apprehensions and fears that oppress my heart. That God is every where present, I readily believe. I see Him in His works: I feel Him in his goodness and tender mercies. That the Most HIGH, a Being perfect in purity, should more intimately

mately communicate himself to a worm defil'd with sin, I do not presume to expect. What I dread is, that when man shall be multiplied on the earth, he will be estrang'd from GOD his Maker. I have fallen, my children may also fall—fall into more horrid depths, and thus being more and more debas'd their wretchedness will increase. The time will come, when I shall be no longer with them, to inform them, and give in my own person, evident proof of the loving kindness and compassion of the LORD. 'Tis true the smallest insect will declare his beneficence: but if GOD continues to hide His face from man, will not the voice of nature be too weak to strike his mind! Will not the idea of the DEITY be totally lost, or at least confounded in darkness, and obscurity? This thought gives my foreboding heart exquisite anguish! I tremble with horror, when my gloomy imagination represents to my view millions of creatures sunk in distress and guilt, who may execrate me as the cause of their blindness and misery.

Father of men, reply'd the angel, with an aspect benign, He, in whom, and by whom all things exist, will not forsake thine offspring. Often will they, by their transgressions, presumptuously affront the majesty
of

of Heaven. Often will their sins call aloud for vengeance. The ALMIGHTY will grasp his thunder, and display the terrors of his judgments, The guilty shall tremble in the dust: the sinner shall cry out in agony, Dreadful is the wrath of GOD! Who can stand before it? But more often will he make himself known in kindness: He will delight to shew favour to the repenting children of men; mercy and compassion dwell always with him; judgment is his strange work.

He will raise from among thy posterity men whose minds he will enlighten. They assisted by the spirit of GOD, shall call their brethren to repentance. Sinners shall hearken, and forsaking the ways of sensuality and profaneness, shall worship a Being of spotless purity, in spirit and truth. He will send among them prophets and holy persons, whose mission he will evidence by miracles: these chosen of the LORD shall cure the diseas'd, raise the dead, and do many wonderful works. These shall make known the judgments of the Most HIGH: they shall declare his condescension and grace: they shall foretell what will happen in distant periods of time, and the accomplishment of these prophecies will teach
men,

men, that the ETERNAL over rules and directs, according to his good pleasure, and the merciful designs of His providence, events that appear, to short-sighted mortals, the work of a blind chance. Often He will speak to the sons of men by His angels: frequently in prodigies, and there will be some righteous persons to whom he will, with infinite goodness, more intimately manifest Himself; to them he will speak face to face; till at length shall be usher'd in, the great mystery of the salvation of mankind, when the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

The angel was silent, and I encourag'd by the condescension and sweetness of his look, reply'd, O celestial friend! if thou wilt yet allow me, frail as I am, to call thee so: and why should I doubt it? since thou canst not hate him whom the ETERNAL does not hate—him for whom the DIVINE clemency manifests itself with such splendor as strikes the heavenly host with admiration, and surpasses the power of words to express, when the adoring soul, humbled in the dust, attempts to pour forth its gratitude. Tell me, lucid spirit, if it be permitted thee to draw from the obscurity, with which they are surrounded, those august mysteries; tell

tell me what is the import of the promise, The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head : and what is meant by the curse denounc'd against man, Thou shalt die. Nothing that the MOST HIGH permits me to reveal, answered the angel, will I hide from thee.

Know then O ADAM ! on thy transgressing the DIVINE command, GOD said to the happy spirits who worship before him, Man hath disobey'd me ; he shall die. A dense cloud suddenly incompass'd the eternal throne, and a deep silence reign'd thro' the whole expanse of Heaven ; the celestial host were fill'd with consternation ; but soon the darkness dispers'd, and the praise of the HIGHEST again resounded from the harps of angels. Never did GOD manifest himself himself with such lustre and magnificence, but in that memorable instant, when his creative voice call'd the stars from non-existence, and his almighty word went on creating through the immensity of space. The adoring angels were in eager expectation of what was to follow this unusual pomp, when the majestic voice of GOD sounded through the arch of Heaven, uttering these words of benignity and grace ; I will not withdraw my favour from the sinner.

ner. To my infinite mercy the earth shall bear witness. Of the woman shall be born an Avenger, who shall bruise the head of the serpent. Hell shall not rejoice in this victory. Death shall lose its prey. Ye Heavens, shew forth your gladness! Thus spake the ETERNAL. The blaze of his glory would have been too strong for even the eyes of archangels, had not a thin cloud temper'd its insupportable radiance. The blest inhabitants of Heaven celebrated with joy this great mystery, and attun'd their golden harps to the praises of the FATHER OF SPIRITS, whose tender mercies are over all his works. How God will pardon the sinner, without offending his justice, surpasses comprehension: but it is enough, ETERNAL TRUTH hath said it. We know, and thou may'st also rest assur'd, that Death, having lost his power, can only disengage the soul from its bonds. The body, that vesture of earth, shall return to the dust, of which it was form'd, while the immortal spirit, refin'd from all defilement, shall be rais'd to Heaven. to partake there with angels, archangels, and all the celestial host, never ending felicity.

Hear ADAM, the order of thy God: I will be gracious to thee, and to thy seed.

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There shall be a sign between Me and thee as the seal of this great promise: thou shalt build an altar on this hill, and offer on it a young lamb. I will on my part, send down to consume the victim. This sacrifice thou shalt renew every year, and the flame shall annually descend to burn thine offering.

I have now told thee, first of men, continu'd the angel, all that the most HIGH thinks proper to reveal of his inscrutable decrees. I am also allow'd to shew thee, that ye are not so solitary on this globe as ye imagine. Curst as the earth is, ye are still surrounded by pure spirits, who are commissioned to be your guard and defence, and order'd to preside, with watchful care, over the works of nature. The angel then touching our eyelids, we beheld beauties that I shall not attempt to describe. No words could give ideas that would do justice to the bright magnificence of the scene. All the country around us were peopled with children of Heaven, more beautiful than EVE when she first came from the hands of her CREATOR, and with soft reluctance, and modest grace, receiv'd her welcome in my arms. Some were employed in collecting the light mists that issued from

from the moist earth : they bore them upwards on their expanded wings, and converted them into mild dews, and fertilizing showers. Others lay reclin'd, near purling brooks, watching lest their sources should fail, and the plants they water'd should be depriv'd of their humid aliment. Many were dispers'd through the open country, who presid'd over the growth of fruits, and spread on the opening flowers azure, green and red, with every vivid hue, and by breathing on them, impregnated them with fragrance. Some peopled the groves employ'd in various offices : from the glittering wings of these wafted gentle breezes, which, passing through the foliage of the trees, hover'd over the flowers, and skim'd along the surface of the brooks and lakes. Some among these celestial labourers having perform'd the task assigned them, were sitting in the shade joining in harmonious concert : the melody of their voices accompanied the sounding strings of their golden harps, and they sang to the praise of the Most HIGH, hymns, not to be heard by mortal ears. Not a few were walking on our hill, and among our bowers : in their gentle looks I beheld commiseration of our distress : but now our eyes again became
unable

unable to behold the heavenly effulgence, and the rapturous scene disappear'd.

These, which you have just beheld, said the angel, are spirits commission'd to watch over the productions of the earth ; they are appointed assistants of Nature, and help to promote and complete her various works, according to the invariable and immutable laws of the great FIRST CAUSE. The CREATOR has given existence to innumerable orders of beings. Even this earth, tho' under the curse of the Most HIGH, is full of beauty, and admiring angels behold, on this globe, objects too sublime for mortal sight. The delightful employment of some of these children of Heaven, is to watch over thy safety, O ADAM ! to avert from thee unforeseen misfortune. They assist thee in all thy labours, and often turn thy disappointments to thy advantage ; bringing from an apparent evil a real good. They with pleasure behold thy domestic happiness. They are witnesses of thy most secret actions. A smile of benevolence shews their joy when man, their charge, acts right : the frown of disdain and sorrow sits on their brow, when he forgets himself and his happiness. These, in future ages, the LORD will employ to distribute plenty thro'

thro' the countries he will delight to bless, or to carry famine and desolation among rebellious nations, when it shall please him to recall them by his chastisements.

The angel ceas'd speaking. He cast on us a look of mild condescension, and was lost to our eyes, in a shining cloud. We prostrated ourselves on the earth with devout extasy, and humbly offer'd up our thanksgiving to our Beneficent and All-merciful CREATOR.

I immediately set up the altar, as the LORD had commanded, on the summit of the hill; EVE employed herself in constructing around it a little paradise. She brought from the neighbouring plain the most beautiful and odoriferous flowers; those she planted on all sides of the altar, and with chearful labour, water'd them each morning and evening, from the clear stream that flow'd near our dwelling. O tutelar angels! said she, in the midst of her labour, complete the work of my hands; for without your aid, in vain shall I plant; in vain shall I water! May your kind cares, bright spirits, give these flowers more life, more beauty, more fragrance, than they find in their native soil; for to the LORD of ALL, this inclosure is consecrated! I
planted

planted a spacious circle of trees around the holy altar, and their thick branches spread an awful shade, that disposed the mind to devout contemplation.

In these occupations we pass'd the summer, expos'd each day to the scorching sun. Autumn arriv'd and repaid our labour with its various fruits. It drew near its close: the loud blasts of the north began to be heard, and the tops of the mountains were cover'd with an hoar frost. Not then knowing that the weak earth, exhausted by the profuse liberality of summer and autumn, wanted to recover her strength by the rest of winter, we saw with grief, the sadden'd face of Nature. In Eden, we knew no change of seasons: mild spring, gay summer, and plenteous autumn, charm'd there together. As the winter advanced, the face of nature wore encreasing gloom; the flowers wither'd on the stalks, and, if any yet surviv'd around the altar, they seem'd, with drooping head to mourn their approaching fall. The latest fruits fell from the trees, and the sapless branches cast their leaves. The clouds pour'd down torrents of rain, and the highest peaks of the mountains were cover'd with snow. We beheld this scene of desolation

solation with fear and anxiety. Should this, dearest EVE, said I, be only the first effects of the curse pronounc'd against this earth, and GOD continue to punish, she will be strip'd of the small remains of utility and beauty which her degradation has left her : small were they in comparison of the delights of Paradise ; yet they were sufficient to soften our toil, and afforded us many of the conveniences and blessings of life ; but if the DIVINE malediction continues to spread destruction on this earth, how gloomy will be our days ? What will become of our promis'd offspring ? Thus did we mourn our melancholy situation ; but encourag'd by the promises of our GOD, we plac'd in him an humble confidence. We endeavour'd to console each other, and to drive from our minds every thought of murmuring or discontent, and thankfully ador'd the LORD, in the midst of the dreary horrors, by which we were surrounded.

We laid up for our winter support, those fruits that had escap'd corruption and rottenness ; and, that they might still be preserv'd, dry'd them by fire. I cover'd our cottage anew, and made a closer fence around, to keep out the cold and rain. In the mean time our little flocks languidly wan-

wander'd on the eminence, gaining a scanty support by nipping the short grass that still remain'd, or here and there sprung up afresh, and I for their farther relief, rang'd the country to seek them fodder, which I carefully preserv'd, lest they should perish if the rigour of the winter increas'd.

Sad and slow pass'd our days, while the clouded sky pour'd forth rain, and the bleak winds chill'd us with cold. But at length the genial sun re-animated the earth, and brighten'd the heavens, while gentle winds chas'd the moist fogs from the summits of the mountains. Reviving Nature smil'd at the return of youth: the fields were again cloath'd in chearful green: innumerable flowers deck'd the pastures, and seem'd to vie with the sun in lustre: the trees again began to shoot out their buds, and all Nature was full of new-born joy. Thus crown'd with leaves and flowers, came amiable spring, that delightful morning of the year.

The trees with which I had surrounded the altar were pre-eminent in beauty. EVE saw with inexpressible rapture, the flowers she had planted on the holy spot recover their bloom. In vain, my children, should I attempt to give you an idea of our
joyful

joyful ecstacy. We ran to the consecrated circle, fill'd with devout gratitude. The sun illumin'd the sacred spot with his purest radiance. Every Creature seem'd to join in our praises of the CREATOR. The flowers exhal'd the sweetest odours; the trees extended the shade of their blossoming branches, over the holy altar: the winged insects that inhabited the tender grass, chirp'd forth their joy! while the birds on the spreading boughs of the trees, enliven'd our devotion by their mellifluous harmony. We cast ourselves on our knees: tears of gratitude and joy burst from our eyes, fell on the grassy turf, and mingled with the dew of morning. Our fervid prayer ascended toward the LORD of Nature, the GOD of Grace and Goodness, who had mercifully turn'd even the effects of his just displeasure, to our advantage.

I now began to cultivate a little field upon the hill. I cast into the fertile earth some grains which I had preserv'd from the produce of autumn. I even enrich'd the land with seeds I had gather'd in the distant country. Nature, chance, or reflection, often discovered to me means to facilitate my labour. Often too, ignorance of the seasons, and of the proper soils for

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the different productions, led me into errors. Frequently my imagination deceiv'd me, and I was disappointed when I had high hopes that I had found the art of contracting my labours. I should sometimes been have without resource, had not the gentle spirits, who watch'd over my happiness, condescended to enlighten me.

One morning as I cast my eyes towards the altar, I beheld, with awe, the flame of the LORD burning over it. The rising sun gilded with his beams the ascending smoke. Enraptur'd, I call'd to my beloved: See, my dearest EVE, I cry'd, see the accomplishment of the promise. Behold, the sacred flame is come down on our altar. Let us go to it immediately. Every labour must now cease. I will as the ALMIGHTY hath commanded, kill a young lamb. Haste, my love, and chuse the finest flowers to strew the sacrifice. I took the best of my flock: but my children, it is impossible to give you a description of what I felt, when I went to deprive the innocent animal of life. A trembling seiz'd my hand; I was scarce able to hold the struggling victim, and never could I have brought myself to give it death, had not my resolution been animated by the express
com-

command of the Author of Life. The very remembrance of its endeavours to escape gives me pain. When I beheld its quivering limbs in the last moment of its existence, an universal tremor shook my own; and when it lay before me, without sense or motion, dreadful forebodings invaded my troubled soul. In obedience to the DIVINE command, I laid the bleeding lamb on the altar, and EVE scattered on it odoriferous flowers. We then prostrated ourselves on the earth before it, with reverence and fear, and offer'd up our humble praises to the GOD OF TRUTH, who had thus solemnly verified his promises. An awful silence reign'd around us, as if Nature celebrated the presence of her God. In this perfect calm our ravish'd ears were charm'd with the minstrelsy of Heaven. The angels that hover'd over us, join'd in our devout praises. The flames soon consum'd the sacrifice, and on its extinction, which was sudden, an aromatic odour diffus'd itself through the far extended country.

A little after this solemn day of reconciliation, I was going, at sun set, to rest myself, after the fatigue of the day, near my beloved. I ascended the hill. I sought

for her in vain in our cottage. I look'd for her with anxiety, in the shady bower. A length I found her, pale, and without strength, at the side of the spring, and thee CAIN, our firstborn, lying on her bosom. The pains of child-birth had seiz'd her, while she was employed at her ordinary labours, near the brook. She was bedewing thine infant face with tears of joy. At sight of me, she cry'd, with a smile, I salute thee, father of men. The LORD hath assisted me in the hour of distress: I have brought forth this son, to whom I have given the name of CAIN. O thou dear first-born! said she, the LORD hath favourably regarded the hour of thy birth; may all thy days be consecrated to His praise? How weak, how helpless is he that is born of a woman! May'st thou, dear infant, rise as a young flower in the spring! May thy life be a sweet perfume offered up to Heaven! I then took thee, my first-born, in my arms. I salute thee, said I to EVE —I salute thee, mother of men. The LORD be praised, who hath assisted thee in thy distress. I saluted thee, CAIN, as the first of human beings, who gave pain to thy mother: first of human race, who entered into life to leave it by death. O God,

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continued I, look down from Thy throne, and regard with compassion, this Thy feeble creature. Shed thy gracious benediction on the morning of his life: It shall be my delightful task to instruct his young mind: I will shew him the miracles of Thy grace: I will teach him the wonders of Thy love. Morning and Evening; his infant lips shall be taught to sound forth Thy praise. O dearest EVE, mother of men, I cry'd, in the transport of my heart, a race, without number, shall flourish around thee. Thy myrtle was, like thee solitary, till the tender suckers sprung from the maternal root. When mild spring shall clothe it with new verdure, the first shoots will produce others, and, in time, this single myrtle shall form a little aromatic grove. In the same manner (let this prospect console thee in thy present weakness) in the same manner shall our offspring multiply around this eminence. We shall soon from its summit, see their peaceful dwellings adorn the plain: we shall see them, if death delay its approach long enough to permit us—we shall see them lend each other mutual assistance, to gain the provisions, the conveniences, and the sweets of life. Often will we descend from

this hill to visit our children's children, and under their fertile shades will we recount the wonders of the LORD, and exhort them to piety and gratitude. When they taste of joy, we will share it with them: we will sympathize in their griefs, and give them consolation and advice. From the top of this ascent we shall see—with gratitude and joy we shall see, a thousand altars smoke around. Their burnt offerings shall envelope us in sacred clouds, thro' which our fervent prayer shall ascend to the great CREATOR, in behalf of the human race, And when the solemn day shall come, when the flame of Heaven shall descend upon the first and most holy altar, they shall assemble on this hill. We will lead them to sacrifice, and in holy transport, we shall behold the fruit of our loins form around us a vast circle of prostrate worshippers.

Thus, O CAIN! did I utter the sweet effusions of my heart. I kiss'd thine infant lips with the most tender joy. Thy mother then took thee in her enfeebled arms, when having assisted her to rise, I led her to our dwelling.

Strength and vigour soon began to animate thy little members. Laughter and gaiety sparkled in thine eyes, and mirth play'd

play'd on thy cheeks. Already wert thou able to run, with thy tender feet on the soft grass, and among the flowers : already thy little lips began to lisp forth thine infant thoughts, when EVE brought into the world MAHALA, thy spouse. Full of joy you skipp'd about the newborn, kiss'd her and covered her with flowers. EVE, at length, brought forth thee, O ABEL ! and afterwards THIRZA, thy companion. With inexpressible joy we beheld your innocent pleasures. Our light encreas'd as we saw your young minds unfold themselves and arrive by little and little, at maturity. We employ'd our most attentive care to cultivate your mental powers, to direct your thoughts to worthy objects, that your lives might diffuse the agreeable odour of virtue. Thus a variety of flowers, combin'd by art, form the fragrant nosegay. While you my children, yet prattled on my knee, or chas'd each other through the grove in wanton play, I discover'd that man, born in sin, need cultivation like the stubborn earth, curs'd for our transgression : and that vigilance and watchful care, were necessary in the arduous task of forming the mind, " To teach the young idea how to shoot," to guide the pliant heart from the

turbulence of the passions, to make the powers and noble inclinations of the soul bring forth their genuine fruits, Virtue and Piety, require all the teacher's art—all the parents love.

I have now, my belov'd children, the happiness to see you arriv'd at your full growth, as the tender plants are by the hand of time transform'd into lofty and wide spreading trees. Prais'd be the God of Heaven for His innumerable mercies! ador'd for ever be his name for His unmerited goodness; May you, my dear offspring, by your filial love, humble gratitude and devout reverence, continue faithful to Him; and may the grace and benediction of the Most HIGH always rest on your dwellings.

ADAM here finish'd his recital. A nymph united by the soft bands of Hymen to her favourite swain, wanders with him in the early dawn. They hear the sweet notes of the nightingale, while all is silence around. Her voice seems the echo of their own fond thoughts, and through their souls is diffus'd a tender transport. The bird ceases her melody; but they still listen with the ear of expectation turn'd towards the branches from whence she chanted her nocturnal

nocturnal song. Thus, though our general father ceas'd to speak, his children remained fix'd in mute attention. The different scenes he had represented gave them various emotions: sometimes the gushing tear dropp'd from their eyes, at others a lively joy spread itself over their features. They all returned thanks to the father of men; CAIN rendered his as well as the others; but he alone had neither smil'd nor wept.

T H E
D E A T H
O F
A B E L.

B O O K III.

A DAM having finish'd his relation, ABEL, again tenderly embraced his brother, and they all left the bower, each pair taking their way to their separate dwellings, while the moon's mild rays enlightened their steps. O my THIRZA, cry'd ABEL to his beloved, pressing her hand, what exquisite joy diffuses itself through my soul ! my brother is no longer estrang'd from me, he loves me : his moisten'd cheek spoke his tenderness, while he gave me the fraternal embrace. How did my heart rejoice in the sweet effusion of his return'd affection ! less delightful, less refreshing is the evening dew that falls on the parch'd earth, after it has been scorched
by

by the sun's burning rays. The furious tempest of his soul is calm'd, peace and love are return'd : they will again take up their abode in our humble cottages, and give new sweets to every enjoyment. O THOU BENEFICENT BEING ! who hast with infinite goodness watch'd over our parents, when they were the sole inhabitants of this spacious earth, keep far from the heart of my belov'd brother, every baleful and tormenting passion. May the storm never return ; but may tranquillity, gratitude and joy, render every day delightful, like the past !

THIRZA, with delight in her countenance, said, Our parents, my love, felt not more joy at the return of spring, after the rigours of the first winter, than they experienc'd when they saw the tears of reconciliation drop from the softened eyes of our brother. Our affectionate father, our fond mother, seem'd in their transport to have recover'd all the gaiety of youth, and every thing around us smil'd with new joy. Thus did the amiable and virtuous pair express the sweet sensations that fill'd their hearts.

MAHALA, CAIN's spouse, observing that his brow still wore the gloom of discontent, press'd his hand to her lips, and, in soft and
tender

tender accent, said, Why, my love, dost thou seem so cold, so insensible in the midst of such happiness? Is the calm that is restor'd to thy soul incapable of enlivening thine eyes with tender joy. Cannot thy heart-felt satisfaction render thy countenance serene? I should fear the cloud of grief, that has so long darken'd thy days, had rendered thee unable to taste of joy, had I not beheld ecstatic delight, content and transport animate thine eyes, when thou gav'st our brother the fraternal embrace. O my belov'd! the ETERNAL from His throne on high, and the benevolent angels who surround us, saw, with approbation, the soft sensations that then fill'd thine heart. Suffer me, my dearest spouse, to press thee to my bosom; let my fondness again light up joy in thy countenance: may'st thou lose all thy cares in this sweet embrace.

CAIN resisted not the tender caresses of his spouse: but reply'd, Your joy, your excessive joy gives me offence. Yes, I am displeased: Does not your transport say, CAIN is corrected! he was before a man vicious and wicked—he hated his brother! —I was not wicked—When arose so strange an idea? Must I hate my brother, because

I was not always weeping over him, or persecuting him with my embraces?— I never hated my brother—No, never. I saw, indeed, with pain, that he by his softness and effeminacy, stole from me the affection of ADAM and EVE.—Could I be insensible of this? But MAHALA, it is not without cause, that sorrow hangs on my brow. What imprudence in our father to recount to us the history of his shameful fall, and all the disasters of which he and EVE are the cause! What need was there for us to know, and be so often told, that it was their fault that lost us all the delights of Paradise, and rendered us unhappy? Were we ignorant of this, our miseries would be more supportable, and we should not deplore the want of enjoyments of which we could then have no idea.

MAHALA stifled in her heart remonstrances and complaints, and carefully read her husband's eyes, to see if she might venture to reply. Then mildly answered, Suffer me, I conjure thee, my beloved, to weep, for I cannot restrain my tears. Suffer me to implore thee for thyself. I beseech thee to drive far from thee this gloomy melancholy, that is again beginning to over-cloud thy soul. Thou canst, I know, my love, disperse

disperse it, and restore to thy heart peace and serenity. Let not thy troubled imagination always present to thy view subjects of misery and grief, where thou oughtest to behold divine benignity and grace. O CAIN ! why should we blame our affectionate parents for relating to us the wonders GOD has done for fallen man ! They would excite in our souls a lively gratitude and firm confidence. They are keenly sensible of every thing that can be a subject of pain and grief, to us, and it is barbarity to reproach them with our misery. Rise, my love, I entreat thee, rise superior to the vexations that would again intrude themselves into thine heart, and obscure our day with gloomy sadness. She said no more, but her husband a tender glance, while her eyes swam in tears.

The smile of affection now temper'd the austerity of CAIN's countenance, and he reply'd, as he embrac'd MAHALA, I will my dear, surmount the vexations that would gain an empire over me. I will not obscure thy days or mine with unavailing sorrow.

ANAMELECH, one of the inferior spirits of Hell, had observed the behaviour and discourse of CAIN. He had seen, with malicious

licious joy, the signs of envy and wrath in his ruffled features. This malignant dæmon, though one of the lowest order among the rebel angels, did not yield in pride and ambition to Satan, the arch-apostate. Often, while in Hell, he retir'd from his companions, whom he despis'd; often he remain'd in solitude among the infected rivers of sulphur, that flow'd thro' the burning land; or stray'd alone on the enormous rock, whose summits were hid in stormy clouds. There, in secret, he repined at his ignoble indolence, while the blue flames, reflected from the tops of the mountains, cast an obscure and horrid light on the path made by his wandering feet. But when Hell, with tumultuous roar, celebrated the praises and triumphs of her king, who, on his return from the terrestrial globe, elate with pride, recounted how he had seduc'd our general ancestors, and boasted his having forc'd the ETERNAL to pronounce against them the decree of death and wretchedness, then the black venom of Envy swell'd the rancorous breast of ANAMELECH. Must SATAN, he cry'd to himself, though accurs'd, enjoy in Hell triumphs and praise, while I, unnotic'd, rove in obscurity, through the dark corners of these gloomy regions,

or

or am confounded among the vile croud, who, with servile shouts, aggrandize him; and hail him victor? No, I feel myself equally of noble daring; I will astonish my compeers: I will force Hell's fierce monarch to pronounce my name with respect. Actuated by the prospect of rising to distinguished greatness among the infernals, he meditated baleful projects, and nourished in solitude, inveterate hatred to the human race. His black mind form'd various schemes for their destruction, and his horrid designs succeeded but too well. The miseries of ADAM's offspring render'd the name of this vile dæmon great among the diabolical powers of the fiery deep. He it was, who, after a succession of ages, incited a cruel king to massacre the infants of Bethlehem. He saw with a malignant smile, men, barbarous as the out-casts of Heaven, display a savage rage against those innocents. He received an horrid pleasure while he beheld their little limbs dash'd against the stones, which their spouting veins stain'd with blood. He was delighted to see them stabb'd and dismember'd in the arms of their distracted mothers. He hover'd with cruel satisfaction over that unfortunate city. The cries of those
tender

tender victims, were, to him, agreeable melody. He fed, with eager joy, on the heart-rending complaints of their inconsolable mothers. The mangled limbs of infants, trampled under the feet of their savage murderers, was to him a pleasing sight: and he felt an hellish transport, when he beheld their fond parents prostrate on the earth, in all the bitterness of anguish, tearing their hair, and beating their breasts, distain'd with the blood of their guiltless offspring.

This relentless fiend, revolving in his gloomy breast the actions of Hell's fierce monarch, disdain'd ignoble sloth. I will ascend, said he; I will ascend to earth. I'll know the import of the sentence Man shall die. I will accelerate his doom—I will kill. He then with hasty stride pass'd through the gate of Hell. He mark'd and trod the footsteps the arch-fiend had trac'd through antient Night, and the tumultuous empire of Chaos. Thus a brigantine, equipped for theft, steers with full sail, through the immense sea and stopping on the coast of Hesperia, surprises the tranquil inhabitants of some peaceful village, while fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and inconsolable wives, lament on the shore, pursuing

pursuing, with their weeping eyes, the ravishers, who, with out-spread sails, soon escape from sight.

The detestable ANAMELECH long flew with rapidity, through the gloomy empire of Night, till at length he perceiv'd a faint light on the frontiers of the new created universe. As a malefactor meditating some horrid murder in the shade and silence of the night, proceeds, to execute his bloody purpose, through the gloom towards the city, and finds it on all sides illuminated, is struck with fear, and would gladly hide himself from every eye ; thus the impure spirit was agitated with terror, while he travers'd the immense sphere which surrounded the earth. On his arrival on this globe, his peircing eye soon discovered the abode of man, and he alighted in the shady grove.

Here then, said he, dwells man, Heaven's new favourite. This earth is curs'd, and far unlike the smiling garden where he first was placed. Delightful spot ! now guarded by the flaming sword ; for I beheld it while I hover'd o'er the earth : This they have lost : but what is left them is not Hell. Perhaps, by plaintive supplications they have softened the anger of their God. For did not Hell still follow me from place to place ;
did

did I not bear within myself an Hell, I might, for ought I see, be happy here : but possibly their grosser bodies may be subject to pains, to griefs unknown to ethereal substances. Ah ! I see some of the heavenly host placed as a guardians over man, though under malediction. I must elude their care, escape their attention, or all my designs will be render'd abortive, and I shall become the sport, rather than the admiration of SATAN, and the sycophants who surround his throne. Yonder is the family of sinners, but I see no signs of misery : their evils, perhaps, commence not till death. I'll know. If their hearts are open to seduction, I will, by my wiles, engage them in new crimes that may accelerate their punishment. SATAN succeeded; by an easy artifice, with the chiefs of this family, while they were yet perfect. Now they are degraded by sin, and the curse of their God, can it be harder to subvert them ? No, I shall induce them to commit actions so black, that their heavenly guardians shall quit the earth with horror, and he who created them, shall by his thunder, exterminate the ungrateful race, or precipitate them into the burning lake ; then, on our scorching banks, we shall taste of joy ; shall triumph

umph, while we behold these worthy inhabitants of this new world rolling in flames of sulphur, cursing their existence, and their ALMIGHTY MAKER. Ah—I see one of them bears on his brow the marks of sullen discontent. He has a ferocity in his looks that gives me hopes. My first effort shall be on him. His companion weeps—I will learn the cause of her tears.

The malevolent spirit, invisible to human sight, follow'd CAIN and his spouse, meditating seduction and murder. When they were retired to their dwelling, the impure daemon repeated after them, in malicious mockery, Rise superior to the vexations that intrude themselves into thine heart ! Drive far from thee these clouds of melancholy, that would obscure thy days ! Then quitting irony, to give utterance to the infernal malice, by which he was agitated, No, said he, what is good shall never take root in thine ungrateful heart ; I will destroy it. Those clouds of melancholy thou would'st disperse, shall be re-assembled o'er thy head, thick and black as those which surround with eternal darkness, the summits of the infernal mountains. My task will be no hard one. Thou thyself labourest to assemble them. I have only to assist thee : it will be

to me a pleasing task to second thine own efforts. Yes, I will accumulate them on thy brow: desolation and misery, yet unknown to the human race, shall find entrance among mortals: thy days shall be filled with horror and darkness, and those darlings of heaven shall taste the cup of wrath, pour'd for angels.

Chearful dawn again began to gild the horizon, inspiring songs and gaiety, when CAIN, with his instruments of husbandry, was going to the field. ABEL had already given him the salute of the morning, and was conducting his flocks to pastures, still moist with the dew of the night. MAHALA and THIRZA were advancing hand in hand towards the garden which surrounded the altar. They stopt to salute their brothers, when EVE came to them from her cabin, with gestures of desperation.—Both were seiz'd with inquietude and concern, and approaching her, cryed out, with emotion, O my mother! You weep—Why weep you? EVE, at this question, redoubled her tears, then endeavouring to stifle her grief, she, giving them a look of affection, said, while her words were interrupted by sighs, Alas! my children have you not heard dreadful groans come from our dwelling. The sharpest

sharpest pains this night have seized your father, and he now struggles with some disease that seems to penetrate even to his bones. He endeavours to conceal his anguish. He would prevent the sighs that escape from my heart. He suppresses his complaints, and strives to console me. But O my children! the most poignant grief has taken possession of my soul, and my tortur'd heart refuses all consolation. When he reposes in most tranquillity, he seems lost in reflection: an instant after he groans with agony,—a cold sweat covers his face, and the tears he had restrain'd burst in a torrent from his eyes. O my dear children! dreadful apprehensions oppress my heart. Support me, my daughters; support your unhappy mother, sinking under the weight of affliction. Let us go to your father. EVE, follow'd by her lamenting children, return'd to her spouse, weeping and leaning on the shoulder of MAHALA.

Fill'd with sorrow, they surrounded the bed of the sick. ADAM then lay tranquil. His countenance and gestures discover'd, that, in spite of suffering and pain, his soul was master of itself. He cast on his afflicted children a look of parental tenderness.

He

He even gave them a smile of affection, and said, the hand of the ALMIGHTY, my beloved offspring, is on me. My entrails are torn with anguish: but, prais'd be the LORD, who regulates all by his unerring wisdom! perhaps he has ordained these pains to unloose the bands that unite my soul to this frail body. If it is now to return to the dust of which it is formed, I submit. I adore the dispensations of my MAKER, and wait with resignation and love, the fatal hour. I will praise Thee, SOVEREIGN OF LIFE AND DEATH, 'till this union is dissolv'd: my soul shall then, deliver'd from its vesture of earth, offer Thee more elevated praise. O GOD OF CONSOLATION! deign to be my support. Teach me to endure, with patience, my present pain, in firm hope of future happiness. But above all forsake me not, O my MAKER! forsake not an expiring sinner in the distressful hour of death! Abandon me not, when my soul is dismayed by the last tremblings of nature!

He then cast his languid eyes on our general mother, who was weeping at his side. And thou, EVE, said he, whom I love as myself, and you, my dear children, add not to my griefs by your sorrow and tears. How cruelly does your affliction distress me!

Cease,

Cease, my beloved—cease these sighs, and these lamentations. Perhaps the Lord may remove these terrors of his hand, and death may yet be at a distance. Perhaps I may again, even on this earth, taste joy and gladness. I wait the good pleasure of my God, and resign myself to his will. Do you also, my dear children, and you, my tender spouse, acquiesce, with submission and devout gratitude, in the Divine appointments. Accustom yourselves before-hand to reflect with holy resignation, on the instant when it shall please the ALMIGHTY to strip off this garment of earth, and take me from you. The father of mankind ceas'd to speak. Sharp pangs again seiz'd him, and he could only utter sighs and groans.

When his agonies were abated, he regarded all about him with silent attention ; but his looks were more particularly fixed on EVE, who seem'd overwhelmed by her deep distress : her sorrows augmented those of her husband, and, to console her, he again resum'd his discourse : Alas ! said he, the death of the first sinner, will doubtless have something frightful in it to those who shall behold it : but it will be more terrible to him who shall be the victim May that merciful God, who has never abandon'd us in our distress

distress, succour me in that dreadful hour!—
He will do it—His past mercies are pledges
that he will. As for you, my children, ad-
ded he, go—leave me—resign me to the will
of the LORD. Pray for me with fervor.

This dreadful crisis may perhaps end in
a sweet sleep, that may restore vigour to
my enfeebled members.

ADAM was silent. His children stoop'd
to kiss his trembling hand. Yes, my fa-
ther, cry'd they, we will prostrate ourselves
before the LORD. We will supplicate,
that sweet repose may repair thy strength
exhausted by suffering. O may our prayer
be accepted! may the LORD remove from
thee these pains by which thou art now
tormented.

With hearts, pierc'd with grief, they left
the cottage. EVE only remained. I would
sleep, said ADAM, addressing himself to his
wife, who sat near his bed, suffus'd in tears.
Why, my beloved, dost thou give way to
thy grief? thy tenderness, by increasing my
pain, may chase repose far from me. At
length he wrap'd his face in the skins which
cover'd him, to conceal from his companion
the distress and inquietude of his mind. Is
this, said he to himself,—is this that hour so
full of horror! I fear it is. Great God,
who

how terrible !—Abandon me not, O my MAKER ! forsake not, in the last agony, an expiring sinner. How sweet would be my consolations, even in death, if these sufferings, these fears, would exempt my unhappy offspring from the consequences of the curse pronounced on them for my sin !——But no—the same horrors will terrify, the same veil of darkness will extend over all born of woman. From a trunk empoison'd by sin, what can be produc'd but sinners ?—sinners subject to death !—I have kill'd all my posterity. All, like me, must be torn from those they love—from those whose tenderness soften'd and endear'd life, and gave it all its delights. O EVE, O spouse, tender and dear ! what anguish will rend thine heart ! What tears wilt thou shed over my senseless dust ! Frightful prospect ! Will not my inanimate clay tremble, when the orphan left without support, shall lament the loss of its father, snatch'd away by death in the midst of his course ? or when decrepid parents shall be depriv'd of their sons, who were the comfort and support of their declining age : when sisters shall water, with their tears, the dead bodies of their brothers ; the wife that of her husband ; the lover that of the object belov'd.

Spare

Spare then my memory, O my children !
Curse not my peaceful dust. It is just that
the weight of the curse should fall on the last
hour,—the hour that tears us from this life
of sin. Death, when he divides the soul from
its covering of clay, will also draw it from
a state of malediction. If notwithstanding
the little power its degradation has left it,
it has struggled against vice, and endeavour-
ed to raise itself to virtue; it shall enjoy ne-
ver ending happiness in the regions of im-
mortality. Ye ought then, O my offspring,
to execrate my ashes. Our abode on earth
is not properly life : 'tis but the dawn of
life: a troublesome dream. Oppress me not
then, ye mountains of grief ! 'Tis by dying
I shall revive. I wait for that instant, firmly
relying on the mercies of my God. Such
were the thoughts of ADAM, when a pro-
found sleep overpower'd his senses.

EVE sat drowned in sorrow, by the bed
of her sleeping husband, and, in a low voice,
fearing to disturb his repose, vented the an-
guish of her heart. What evils do I expe-
rience? said she. O curse, the consequence
of sin ! let thy burden rest on me ; I was
the first sinner. Let a double weight of woe
fall on my wretched head. It is just, I was
the first offender. Ah ! 'tis already on me.
All the griefs, all the distresses of my hus-

band, of my unhappy offspring, flow from me. Their pains, their sorrows, are so many gnawing worms that prey on me. O my spouse ! if thou diest—How I tremble at the idea ! a general shivering seizes me ; the cold sweat trickles down my face. Can the horrors of death be more dreadful ! If thou art going to die for my fault, O ADAM ! If these agonies are to unloose the bands of life ! hate me not. Add not, to my insupportable miseries, thine anger. And ye my children, curse not your unhappy mother. Guilty as I am, I deserve your pity. Ye upbraid me not, 'tis true, but alas ! every sigh, every tear awakens my keen remorse, and is to me a cutting reproach. O GOD ALMIGHTY ! lend an ear to my plaintive supplications, and remove his sufferings : or, if they are forerunners of death ; if his body must now return to the dust,—terrifying thought !—separate us not : let me die with him. Suffer my soul to retire first, that I may not behold his last pangs. I was the first sinner. EVE ceased to speak, and remained inconsolable weeping by the side of her husband.

CAIN, in spight of the roughness of his temper, shed tears at the groans and discourse of his father. He went into the fields when he
left

the cottage, and thus expressed his concern: I could not help weeping when I was near the bed of my father: yet I hope that he will not die. God grant that this good parent, whom I love, may not die. Yes, I could not help weeping: but yet I am not drowned in sorrow like my brother. Before I shed tears on all occasions, I must lose my natural firmness, and become like him, soft and effeminate. Will they still say that I am of a savage disposition? at least they'll imagine that ABEL loves ADAM better than I, because I cannot weep like him. I love my father: he is as dear to me as my brother: but I cannot command my tears to flow.

ABEL, penetrated with sorrow, went into his pastures. He prostrated himself on the earth; he bent his head on the grass, which he moistened with his tears, and addressed this prayer to the ALMIGHTY.

With the most profound humility I would praise Thee. O my GOD! Thou conductest the affairs of mortals with unerring wisdom, and infinite goodness. Though depress'd by grief, I dare presume to offer up to Thee my supplications; for Thou hast permitted the sinner to implore thy mercy. Thine unmerited goodness has allow'd us this sweet consolation, in this

the midst of the evils which surround us. I ought not, I do not hope, that thou wilt change the purposes of Thy wisdom, in compliance with the desires of a plaintive worm. Thy ways, O GRACIOUS GOD, are wise and good. To Thy will I resign myself, supplicating only for strength to suffer, and for consolation in our pain. Thou knowest, O OMNISCIENT GOD! Thou knowest the desires, the ardent wishes of my soul. If these desires, if these wishes are not contrary to the designs of thine infinite wisdom, restore to us our common parent : restore to our afflicted mother, the husband for whom she supplicates Thee :—restore her him in whom her life is bound up, and whose loss would render her wretched—restore to us his sorrowing children, a father tenderly beloved. Defer, O GOD Merciful and Gracious ! defer, if it be Thy will, his death to a more distant period. Speak, O GOD ! and it is done : command, and it is accomplished. At Thy nod, our evils will disappear, and joy and gladness, thanksgivings and praise, will resound from the humble habitation of sinners. Permit him who gave us life, to remain yet longer with us. Spare him, that he may still declare to us thine infinite bounties, and teach our infant children

children to lift forth Thy praise. But if thine unerring wisdom has appointed this the time for his dissolution ; be not offended O my MAKER ! with this excess of our grief. Pardon the disorder of my words. If he must now die, lend him, O GOD of compassion !—lend him Thine assistance in the terrible hour of death, and mercifully forgive our cries and groans, Moderate by thy divine consolations, our afflictions, that we may not offend Thee by our despair,

Such was the prayer of ABEL. He was still prostrate on the earth, from which he was rous'd by a distant sound. Sweet odours were wafted around, and before him stood a guardian angel, resplendent in beauty. On his serene brow he wore a coronet of roses, and his smile was gracious as the opening day. He said, with a voice mild as the breath of the zephyrs, The Lord hath lent a gracious ear, O ABEL ! to the voice of thy supplications. He hath granted thee the desires of thine heart. He hath commanded me to assume a body, and to bring thee consolation and succour. The ETERNAL, who incessantly watches over his creatures who regards with an eye of beneficence the crawling insect, as well as the archangel arrayed in glory, hath ordered this
earth

earth to produce, in its bosom salutary remedies for the diseases of its inhabitants, whose bodies, by the fall, are expos'd to pain and sickness, which shall by degrees lead them to death and to corruption, the sad consequences of having disobeyed their MAKER: Friend, take these plants, and these flowers: they are specifics to restore health to thy father; boil them in the clear water of the fountain: let him drink, and be whole.

The angel having given him the salutary herbs, disappear'd. Struck with inexpressible astonishment, he remained some time immoveable; then breath'd the devout gratitude of his soul, in this short ejaculation: What am I, O GOD! what am I, that thou should'st thus graciously regard my prayer? I am but sinful dust and ashes. I would praise Thee, O my GOD! but Thy bounties exceed all praise. The triumphant archangel cannot sufficiently exalt Thy name, yet Thou hast deign'd to accept the supplications of a worm.

His lively joy lent him wings. He ran to his cottage, and with eager impatience, prepar'd the odoriferous dilution. This performed, he flew to his father. EYE was still bath'd in tears, and her daughters sat pensive by her side. They saw with
sur-

surprize his eagerness, the joy which sparkled in his eyes, and the smile which sat on his lips. Dry up your tears, my beloved, said he, as he entered. Weep no more, O my Mother! the LORD hath heard our prayers, and hath sent us succour. An angel hath appeared to me in the pastures. He hath given me aromatic herbs and flowers, gathered by his celestial hand. Boil these said he, in clear water, and restore health to thy father. They heard his words with astonishment, and render'd thanks to the LORD with gratitude and humble confidence. The sick drank the healing draught, and soon experienc'd its salutary effects. ADAM now rais'd himself on his bed, and with ardent piety offer'd up his adorations; then taking the hand of ABEL, he press'd it to his cheek, and wetted it with tears of joy, saying O my son! blessed be thou! thou by whom GOD hath sent me succour: thou, whose prayer he accepts, and hath vouchsaf'd to answer. I again bless thee, my son! my beloved son! EVE and her daughters then embraced him by whom the LORD had sent them succour.

CAIN, at this instant, enter'd the dwelling of his father. While in the field, he had been tormented with care and anxiety: I will

will return, said he to himself; I will return to my father: perhaps he needs my assistance.—Perhaps he is already dead, and I have not receiv'd a last blessing from his lips. I will hasten to him:—I love my father.

On his entering, he saw, with amazement, their joy. He heard ADAM bless his brother. MAHALA, his wife, ran to him, and embracing him, said, The LORD, my beloved hath sent us succour by the hand of ABEL. CAIN approached the bed of ADAM, and kissing his hand, said, I salute thee, O my father! Prais'd be GOD, who restores thee to our tears; but, O my Father, have you no blessing for me? you have blessed my brother, by whom the LORD sent you help: bless me also, me your first-born.—ADAM giving him a look of affection, and pressing his hand between both his, said, I give thee my blessing, O CAIN! Be bless'd of GOD, O my first-born! May the favour of the LORD rest always on thee! May thine heart enjoy tranquility and peace, and thy soul uninterrupted repose! CAIN then embraced his brother, How could he avoid it? all had embraced him.

CAIN left his father's dwelling: but it was to retire into the gloomy recesses of a thick grove, where, oppress'd with melancholy,

choly, he repeated after ADAM, Peace and tranquillity—an uninterrupted repose—
How can I enjoy this tranquillity? Where shall I find this repose? Was not I forc'd to petition for a blessing, while his affection made him, unask'd, pour forth his soul in blessings on my happy brother? He has allowed me my rank of first-born. What advantage to me is this superiority? Misery is my inheritance; disdain my portion. It is by the hand of ABEL, the LORD hath restor'd health to our father. I am rejected. The bright messengers of Heaven appear not to me; they pass me with contempt: they honour me not with their regards. While I spend my strength in the labours of the field: while the sweat drops from my face, embrown'd by the scorching sun, the angels hold converse with him, whose delicate hands are unsoil'd by labour; who lies idle near his flock, or with unmanly softness is shedding tears because the shining dew glitters on the grass and herbage, or the setting sun tinges the clouds with purple. Happy favourite! All nature smiles on thee. I only feel the curse! I only eat my bread by the sweat of my brow. The whole weight of the divine malediction falls on my wretched head. I am, in every thing, unhappy.
Thus

Thus revolving in his unhappy brain, gloomy ideas, the offspring of hatred and envy, he wander'd in the thick shade.

The sun was retiring behind the azure mountains, and reflected on the clouds a glowing red, when ADAM said to his wife, I will, my beloved, before the day is closed, render thanks to GOD, who hath restored my health. He left his bed, full of strength and vigour, and repaired, accompanied by his daughters, to the entrance of his cottage. The departing sun diffus'd a mild light over the fields: ADAM cast himself on his knees, and view'd, with transport, the country thus enlighten'd. Here am I, said he, with fervent effusion of heart—here am I, my SOVEREIGN MASTER, prostrate before Thy face, penetrated with a lively sense of Thine infinite goodness. Ye agonizing pangs! what are become of you? ye pierc'd my bones, ye scorch'd my vitals; yet, in the midst of anguish, my soul lost not her hope; she placed her confidence in GOD, and was not disappointed. The ALMIGHTY lent a gracious ear to the groans and cries of a sinner. He regarded the voice of a worm. Health return'd: Pain and sorrow are no more. Death shall not yet triumph over my dust; I shall still praise my MAKER, in
this

this habitation of clay, this house of corruption. I will praise Thee, O my GGD ! I will praise Thee from the early dawn to the rising of the evening star. While my soul is confin'd in this body of earth, it shall stammer forth its gratitude : but it will praise Thee in more exalted strains when disengag'd from this obstructing dust, it shall rise triumphant and refin'd ; it shall then behold Thee face to face, array'd in all the lustre of Thy magnificence. O ye angels resplendent in light cast your eyes on this dwelling of sinners, this abode of death. The earth shook from its foundation when it was defil'd by sin, and its ALMIGHTY MAKER turn'd from it his regards. Yet, on this earth, He now displays the wonders of His love. Attune your golden harps to His praise. Exalt his name in seraphic strains, while man, can only lisp in rapture. I salute thee, O sun ! I salute thy retiring beams. When thy morning rays enlighten'd these fields, I groan'd, oppress'd by pain : when they illumin'd my dwelling, I saluted them with sighs : ere they have given place to the grey twilight, I am returning thanks to the LORD OF LIFE, who hath removed my griefs. I salute you, ye lofty mountain,

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and

ye hills, scatter'd over the plain ; mine eyes shall still behold, reflected from your summits, the glowing brightness of the rising and the setting sun. I salute you, O ye birds, who chant the praises of the ETERNAL ! your songs shall still recreate mine ear. Ye limpid streams, I shall again repose my weary limbs on your flowery banks ; again be lull'd to rest by your soft murmurs : and ye groves, ye bowers, ye woods, I shall still walk under your refreshing shades ; ye shall again shield me from the sun's too ardent ray, when wrap'd in profound meditation, I shall wander in your fragrant retreats. I salute thee, O nature entire ; but I worship and adore only nature's God, who supported my vile clay, when ready to crumble into dust.

The father of men thus prais'd the LORD, while the whole creation appear'd attentive to his prayer ; and seem'd to felicitate his return to life. The glorious orb of day darted on him its last rays. The young zephyrs wafted on their ambrosial wings the aromatic perfumes of the groves and gardens, as if charg'd by the flowers to exhale their sweets to him. The feather'd inhabitants of the woods
salu-

saluted him with their softest notes, as actuated by a lively joy.

CAIN and ABEL came under the shade while ADAM was yet on his knees. They saw with delight, their father restor'd to health. The prayer ended. ADAM arose from the earth, he embrac'd, and he received the embraces of his transported children: he kiss'd with fond affection the moisten'd cheek of our general mother; after which, he, EVE, and their daughters, return'd to their dwelling. ABEL then addressing himself to CAIN, said, Let us also my brother, render thanks to GOD MOST HIGH, who has restor'd to our tears our affectionate father. I will, by the light of the moon, which is now rising, offer on mine altar, a young lamb: Wilt thou not also on thine altar, make an offering?

CAIN, giving him a gloomy and angry look, said, Yes, I will present an offering to the LORD of what my barren fields afford. ABEL, with graceful sweetness reply'd, O my brother! the LORD our GOD counts as nothing the lamb which burns before him, neither doth he regard the fruits of the field which the fire consumes. 'Tis the ardent piety that flames in the heart of

the worshipper, that gives the offering all its value.

CAIN return'd. The fire of heaven will perhaps consume thy victim ; for by thee the LORD sent health to our father—I am disdain'd. However, I will make my offering. I am, as well as thee, penetrated with gratitude. Our father, who is restor'd to our wishes, is equally dear to me as to thee. Let the LORD do with me, miserable worm ! according to his good pleasure.

ABEL tenderly threw himself on the neck of CAIN, saying, Ah my brother, my dear brother ! dost thou make the LORD's having sent, by my hand, relief to our father, a new subject of discontent ? I was charg'd with this commission for us all. All pray'd to the LORD ! the prayers of all were answered. Banish from thy bosom, my dear brother !——Let me intreat thee, to banish for ever these gloomy ideas. The LORD, who sees into the inmost recesses of our souls, can discover there, unjust thoughts, and secret murmurs. Love me, as I love thee. Offer thine offering ? but suffer it not to be defiled by any impure disposition. May the LORD, O my brother !

ther ! favourably accept thy praises, and graciously shed his blessings on thee.

CAIN answered not ; but walk'd towards his field, and ABEL, looking after him with a ptiying eye, repair'd to his pastures. Each advanc'd to the altar, ABEL slew a young lamb ; laid it on his altar ; scatter'd on it odoriferous herbs and flowers, and put fire to the offering, then, warmed with fervent piety, prostrated himself before it, and with humble gratitude, praised the LORD. The flame arose on high through the gloom of night, and enlighten'd the fields and pastures. The LORD forbid the winds to blow, because the sacrifice was acceptable.

CAIN laid on his altar the fruits of the field ; put fire to the offering, and also prostrated himself before it. Instantly a terrific sound was heard among the bushes. A furious whirlwind advanc'd toward the altar ; dispers'd the offering of CAIN, and cover'd him with flame and smoke. He retir'd trembling, when a majestic voice, proceeding from the darkness, utter'd these awful words, Why is pale fear seen in thy visage ? There is yet time : correct thyself ; repent, and I will pardon thy sin : if
thou

thou dost not, thy crime and its chastisement shall pursue thee for ever. Why hatest thou thy brother? He loves thee, he honours thee with true affection.

CAIN, seized with horror, quitted the place of sacrifice, a tempestuous wind driving after him the infected smoke of the offering. Appall'd with terror he wandered through the darkness. His heart trembled within him; and a cold sweat ran down his face. Casting his eyes around, he beheld the bright flame of his brother's sacrifice rising in the air in spiry waves. At this view he turned aside his head, and gnashing his teeth, cry'd, Ah! there's the sacrifice of the favourite. Fly, mine eyes, this hateful sight. Another look would fill my heart with all the rage of the infernals. I cannot help cursing him with my trembling lips.—But turn, unhappy wretch, turn thy fury on thyself. Come, O death! O destruction come, and put a period to my misery and my life! Why, O my mother, didst thou entail misery on thy wretched offspring? Shall I present myself before you, in the horrors of my despair? Shall my agonies, my terrors, my insupportable wretchedness, shew you the distresses your fatal relapse

relapse prepared for your descendants? Ah! no. Revenge not, unhappy man—revenge not thyself on a father, by bringing before his eyes, a spectacle of such horror. Seiz'd with terror, he would expire in my sight, and I should, if possible, be still more wretched. The wrath of the LORD lies heavy on me. He has curs'd me. He disdains mine offering. I am the most desolate creature on the face of the earth. The animals of the field, the reptiles of the ground, compar'd with me, are worthy of envy. O MERCIFUL GOD! if it be possibly, extend Thine indulgence to me. Turn from me, O GOD! Thy fierce anger or again reduce me to nothing.—— But what do I say?——O hard obdurate heart!—Correct thyself, he hath said, and I will pardon thy past offences. Chuse pardon or misery!—misery eternal! misery inexpressible! Yes, I have sinned: my iniquities rise above mine head: the cry for vengeance. Thou art just, O GOD! Thy vengeance is also just. The farther we stray from the paths of perfection and wisdom, the farther we stray from happiness. I must then be guilty, since I am unhappy. I will forsake these ways of perverseness. Turn thine eyes O GOD, from my past

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offences!

offences : Preserve me from committing
new ones. Take pity on me, O my God!
or—reduce me to nothing.

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A B E L.

B O O K IV.

THE air was yet moist with the dew of night ; the birds still slept in silence ; the sun had not begun to gild the tops of the hills, or the hovering fogs of the morning : yet **CAIN**, distress'd and melancholy, had left his cottage. **MAHALA**, unknowing she was over-heard, had wept and pray'd for him during the tedious night. The black traces of despair were too visible in his countenance to escape the observation of his affectionate wife. She rais'd to Heaven her supplicating hands. She begg'd for him, mercy and forgiveness. She entreated that the **DIVINE** consolation and grace might soothe and soften the heart of her wretched husband. Her lively grief, her intense devotion, as she fear'd

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disturbing

disturbing the partner of her bed, were only utter'd in sighs and tears. Yet the inarticulate expressions of her sorrow had reached the ears of CAIN, who, unable to bear her grief, wandered in the early dawn. His murmuring voice resounded through the profound calm of the fields like distant thunder. Night odious! night horrible! said he. What black clouds surround me! What fears! What terrors! When my imagination began to be calm'd, when gentle sleep had hush'd my griefs, the voice of lamentation awoke me. Alas! I only wake to be replunged in wretchedness. Shall I never more enjoy repose? Why did she pray and weep for me? She yet knows not that my offering was rejected, — Her tears increase my distress. — I cannot bear her groans — they add to my griefs — they chase peace from my heart. This day, like the last, must be pass'd in sorrow and bitterness. While a smile of approbation rewards every action of my brother, while he enjoys every soothing delight, terror and sadness pursue me. I love thee MAHALA — I love thee tenderly. Thou art dearer to me, than myself. Why then should'st thou, by thy lamentations,

tions, fill with anguish the few hours of rest my miseries have left me?

He stopt under a bush that grew on the side of a rock: O soft sleep! said he, restore me here thy balmy blessings. Unhappy that I am, weakened by fatigue and terror. I invok'd thee in my cottage. Scarce hadst thou spread over me thy downy pinions, when the voice of sorrow chas'd thee from mine eyes. Here is none to trouble my repose, except beings inanimate, influenc'd by the wrath of Heaven. can drive quiet from me, even in this distant retreat. O Earth, which by a curse too severe, requires such painful labour—Alas! I only labour to prolong a life of wretchedness:—now, at least, let me on thy bosom find some moments of rest, to repair my exhausted strength. I expect no other happiness. I know no greater. He was silent. He laid himself on the fragrant grass, and the power he had invok'd wrapt him in his sable wing.

ANAMELECH secretly follow'd the steps of CAIN. He was now at his side. A profound sleep. said the malicious spirit, has clos'd his eyes. I will continue near him, to accomplish my purpose, and accelerate his destruction. Come, assist me ye hovering

hovering dreams, disturb his soul with fantastic visions : assemble each image that can inspire him with fury and distraction. Come envy with corrosive tooth, hot rage and every tumultuous passion. Thus spoke the spirit impure, and with intent malign laid him near CAIN. A furious wind arose ; it howl'd in the caverns of the rocks ; it shook with dreadful roar the bushes : and rudely agitated the hair of CAIN : But in vain it howl'd in the caverns of the rocks : in vain it shook with dreadful roar the bushes : in vain it rudely agitated the hair of CAIN : Sleep sat heavy on his wearied eyelids, and he still kept them closed.

He beheld in a dream vast field, on which were scattered a number of mean cottages. He saw his sons and his grandsons dispers'd over the plain, where they resolutely expos'd themselves to the mid-day sun, which darted his scorching rays on their heads. Assiduous at their painful labours, sometimes they gathered fruit for their subsistence : at others prepared the earth to receive fresh seeds ; or stooping, wounded their hands with pulling up the thorny brambles : lest they should choak the rising grain, and lessen the utility of their former industry. He saw also their wives busy'd
in

in domestic labour. He beheld them preparing a frugal refreshment against the return of their husbands. ELIEL, his eldest son, then appear'd before him. He saw him lift with difficulty a heavy burden from the earth : he bore it on his shoulders tottering under the load : the sweat streamed from his embrown'd face, and sorrow and discontent appear'd in his eyes. What a life of misery ! said ELIEL. How well is the prediction fulfilled, which said, Man shall eat his bread by the sweat of his brow. Did the CREATOR banish from his presence all the offspring of ADAM ! or did the curse affect only the children of the first-born ? too severely it is felt by us the sons of CAIN : our portion is labour and indigence. While in yonder fields, inhabited by the children of ABEL, from which our unnatural kinsmen have banished us to these barren desarts, is centered all that can give delight to man. There the earth spontaneously pours forth her bounties. Those sons of luxury recline in fragrant bowers. Nature herself seems subservient to their ease and sloth. Every comfort, every pleasure, if pleasure is to be found on earth, is the portion of these voluptuous

luptuous idlers. Thus murmuring, ELIEL slowly stagger'd towards the cottages.

CAIN was now carry'd on imagination's sportive wing, to a plain enamell'd with a variety of flowers, watered by limpid brooks, which meandering, ran with soft murmurs near aromatic bowers, under the shade of tufted groves. The banks were decorated with lofty trees, and the clear water, reflected the vivid colours of their several fruits, form'd a new landscape. The streams after thus roving through the flow'ry turf, finish'd their wandering course in an ample lake, whose glassy surface was smooth and unruffled. He saw at a distance a citron grove, where play'd the wanton zephyrs, fanning with their ambrosial wings, the sweets around. The prospect was terminated by a range of lofty fig-trees, which spread their extensive shade over the tender flowers. In this delightful spot were accumulated all the beauties with which imaginative fable had decorated the charming vale of Tempe, or Cnidus's luxuriant land; where arose, consecrated to Venus, a magnificent temple on lucid columns.

CAIN saw, in his dream flocks white as the falling snow, sporting in the plenteous
herbage,

herbage, while the indolent shepherd, whose head was encircled with wreaths of flowers, lay reclined under the spreading palm, chanting to the sympathizing object of his passion an amorous lay. Their boys blooming as the loves, and girls sweet as the graces, assembled under the arches of interwoven honey-suckles and myrtles, where with agile feet they formed the festive dance. The bright juice of the grape sparkled in golden goblets, and delicious fruits were spread on tables cover'd with flowers; while the ambient air resounded with vocal and instrumental harmony. CAIN with regret beheld these children of dissipation. He saw a young man rise in the midst of the sportive assembly, and heard him thus address his brethren: I rejoice with you my jocund friends: I rejoice in our present felicity. Nature smiles on us: she has united in this delightful spot, all that can charm the eye, or ravish the heart: but to conserve her bounties, we must again return to labour: and labour is troublesome and fatiguing. Shall our hands, form'd to touch the soft lute and sounding lyre, be rendered callous by the drudgery of the field? Shall our heads, so well becoming these encircling roses, be again exposed

to the sun's fierce rays? No, we will recline on beds of violets under the myrtle, while the hardy sons of earth, the brawny inhabitants of yonder plains, shall for us endure the toil of labour. The men shall till our grounds, their wives and daughters shall be the servants of ours. What say ye my gay companions, is the prospect pleasing? You smile approbation. Lend me your assistance, my dear brethren, and ere to morrow's dawn, we will make it a joyful reality. When the sun has withdrawn his rays from the earth, and night has spread over it her mantle of darkness, we will march in silence to the cottages of those rustics. We shall doubtless find them, after the rugged toil of the day, bury'd in the arms of sleep, and shall easily take them captive. 'Tis true our number is superior to theirs, and you may wonder why I recommend silence, and chuse night for our expedition: but my friends, the men are strong: hardship and fatigue have brac'd their nerves, and despair may render them desperate. Let us then avoid a battle, in which, if victors, we must suffer some loss, and chuse the least dangerous mode of effecting our purpose. The young man was silent. The whole assembly were una-

THE DEATH OF ABEL. CIII

unanimous in the praises, and shew'd their readiness to join in the infernal scheme by loud shouts of applause.

A new scene now struck the eyes of CAIN. It was night, and the inhuman artifice was put into execution. He heard cries of desolation and terror, intermingled with shouts of insult and triumph. He beheld the fields and rocks illumin'd by the flames of the burning cottages; by this dreadful light, he saw his sons and grandsons bound, and with them their wives and infants, tamely marching before the children of ABEL, like a flock of bleating sheep.

Such was the dream of CAIN. He was distress'd, though asleep. When ABEL, having perceived him under the bushes at the foot of the rock, approached, and with looks of affection, and in a voice of tenderness, said, Ah my brother, soon may'st thou awake! I long to embrace thee, and to express the sweet sensation by which my heart is engross'd. I love thee, my brother; I see with pain thy uneasiness, and gladly would remove from thy soul the fatal jealousy that embitters thy days. Awake, O CAIN, awake, that my heart may again enjoy the pleasures of reconciliation. But soft, ye impatient wishes—breathe gently,
ye

ye winds : ye birds cease your untimely melody, lest you disturb the precious repose of my brother. Perhaps his fatigu'd limbs require yet longer the restorative of sleep-- But how he lies, ! how pale—how wan !— His features seem distorted by fury. Why do you distress him, ye visions of terror ! Leave his soul to enjoy tranquility, ye imaginary horrors. Take possession of it ye pleasing images. Present to his mind the sweet occupations of domestic life ; the tender delights of the husband and the father. May every thing most lovely in the creation, fill his imagination, and soothe his soul ! May he awake calm and smiling as the vernal morn ! May joy expand his countenance, and his delighted heart utter its gratitude to the Great GIVER of every good, in devout praise ! He spoke no more, but stood stedfastly looking at CAIN, while astonishment, inquietude, and tender love, were visible in his eyes.

As the fierce lion couching at the foot of a rock, (who, though asleep, freezes with terror the trembling traveller, and obliges him to take a wide circuit to avoid the dreadful beast) if the murderous arrow, in its rapid flight, pierces his side, suddenly he starts, and with dreadful roar, seeks his enemy:

enemy : He foams, he rages : His blazing eyes menace destruction. The first object he meets is the victim of his fury ; perhaps an innocent child playing on the grass with variegated flowers. Not less terrible rose CAIN. His eyes were enflam'd, and rancour sat on his pallid cheek. A storm of wrath was gathering. The cloud burst. He stamp'd his foot on the ground. Open O earth ! he cry'd, Open O earth, and hide me—hide me from my miseries in thy lowest abyfs. My life is one continu'd round of distress and torture, and, as if this was not enough, I see—insupportable prospect !—I see that my children shall one day inherit my miseries. But I implore in vain ; thou wilt not open. The Almighty AVENGER restrains thee. I must, such is his will, I must be wretched. And that future evils may disturb my scanty enjoyment of present good, he himself draws aside the veil. Curst be the hour when my mother, by my birth, gave the first proofs of her sad fertility ! Curst be the place where she first felt the pangs of child-birth ! May all its products perish ! May he that shall sow it lose his grain and his labour ! May sudden terror strike even to the bones, all who shall pass over it !

These

These were the imprecations of CAIN. When ABEL, pale as the sculptur'd marble, ventur'd to approach him with slow and unsteady step. My brother ! said he, in a trembling voice : No——O my GOD !——Horror freezes my blood——One of the seditious spirits, whom the ETERNAL precipitated from Heaven, has surely taken his form, under which he utters his blasphemies ! Where art thou my brother ?—I fly to seek thee—to bless thee.—Where art thou my brother ?

Here I am, cry'd CAIN, in a voice of thunder : Here am I, thou soft favourite—thou dear minion of the vengeful ETERNAL, and of all Nature,—thou, whose viperous race are one day solely to engross all the felicity of this world. Yes, so it must be. It is fit there should be a tribe of slaves, as beasts of burden to the favourite lineage. Their delicate limbs must not endure the hardships of labour. Form'd only for voluptuous idleness, these sons of sloth must recline in shady bowers while—The rage of Hell is in my heart—Cannot I—

CAIN ! my brother ! said ABEL, interrupting him, with a voice and look that at once expressed his horror, affection and astonishment : What terrifying dream has troubled

troubled thy soul? I sought thee in the early dawn, I came to embrace thee at the springing day. But how do I find thee agitated? How dost thou return my tender love? When, Oh when, my dearest brother, shall peace, shall amity bless our dwellings? When will come the happy day—a day, after which our parents so ardently long, when fraternal affection and social joy, shall be firmly established? O CAIN! CAIN: canst thou so soon forget the pleasures of reconciliation, of which thou seem’st so sensible, when in a rapture of joy and friendship I flew into thine arms! Have I offended thee, my brother?—Unknowingly have I offended thee: then—But, why then dost thou cast on me such furious looks? By all that is sacred, I conjure thee to forget my involuntary fault, and receive my embraces. As ABEL pronounced the last words, he stoop’d to clasp the knees of his brother; but CAIN started back, crying, Ah, thou serpent! Would’st thou entwine thyself about me? At the same instant, with an arm strengthened by rage, he swung a massy club and smote the head of his brother. The innocent victim of his fury fell at his feet. The bones of his head were crush’d. He once rais’d his dying eyes to his

his unnatural brother, and, giving him a look of pardon and pity, expired. His blood distained the waving curls of his fair hair, and ran in a stream to the foot of his murderer.

CAIN stood motionless, stiffen'd with horror. The cold sweat ran from his trembling members, while he beheld with agony, the last convulsions of his expiring brother. The smoke of the blood he had shed ascended even to him. Curs'd blow! he cry'd. My brother?—Awake—awake. O my brother:—How pale!—His eyes art fixed! The blood streams from his head!—Miserable that I was—Ah! what am I now?—Infernal horrors!

Thus he cry'd aloud, and furiously threw from him the bloody club: then with violence struck his temples. He stoop'd to the dead body, and endeavoured to raise it from the earth, crying, ABEL!—my brother!—awake! Ah! what tortures do I feel!—How his head hangs:—how it bleeds! how helpless!—Dead!—O anguish insupportable:—he is dead. My crime is without remedy.—I fly—whither fly? My tottering knees will scarce bear me. Having thus spoke, trembling he hid himself among the bushes.

The

The seducer, with triumph in his look,
 remain'd near the dead. Elate with pride,
 he stretch'd his gigantic form to its full
 height, and his countenance was not less
 dreadful than the black pillar of smoke,
 arising from the half consum'd lumber of a
 lonely cottage is to the inhabitants, who
 returning from their peaceful labours, find
 all their conveniences, all their riches: the
 prey of the devouring flames. ANAME-
 LECH follow'd the criminal with his eyes,
 while a ruthless smile spoke his exultation.
 He then cast on the bleeding body a look
 of complacency. Pleasing sight! said he,
 I see for the first time this earth wet with
 human blood. The flow of the sacred
 springs of Heaven, before the fatal hour
 when the MASTER of the universe precipi-
 tated us from those seats of bliss, never
 gave half this pleasure. Never did the
 harmonious harps of the archangels give
 such delight, as the last sighs of a brother
 murder'd by a brother. And thou, the
 noblest of thy MAKER's works: thou last
 best effort of his creating hand, what a
 despicable figure dost thou now make!
 Rise beautiful youth! Rise, thou friend of
 angels! This indolence in thine orisons ill
 becomes the worship of thy GOD! But
 he

he stirs not. His own brother has left him weltering in his blood. No, that honour is mine. I guided the arm of the fratricide. It is by actions, such as SATAN himself would boast, I shall rise above the vile populace of Hell. I hasten to the foot of the infernal throne. The vast concave of the fiery gulph will reverberate my praises. I shall move in triumph thro' crouds of ignoble spirits, whom no hardy atchievement has dignified, and look down with scorn on those, who till now were accounted my equals. Inflated with arrogance, he turn'd once more to glut his eyes with a last view of the victim ; but the heidous traces of despair instantaneously dissipated his ironic smiles and effac'd the triumphant pride which sat on his expanded brow. The LORD commanded, and he was seiz'd by infernal horrors : he was overwhelmed by a deluge of torture. He now curs'd his existence : he curs'd eternity, replete with torments, and yelling fled.

The last sighs of the dying ascended to the throne of GOD, and demanded of Eternal Justice vengeance on the murderer. Thunder was heard from the holy sanctuary. The golden harps ceas'd to sound. The eternal hallelujahs were interrupted.

Three

Three times the thunder echo'd through the lofty arch of Heaven. This awful sound was succeeded by the majestic voice of God, issuing from the silver cloud that encompass'd his throne. It summon'd an arch-angel. The lucid spirit advanc'd towards the seat of the Most HIGH, veiling his face with his effulgent wings: and God said, Death hath made his first prey on man. Henceforth be it thy function to assemble the souls of the just. I myself spoke to that of ABEL when he felt. When the righteous man is languishing in the cold sweat of death, be thou at his side. By assuring him of eternal felicity, him in these moments of anxiety, when his soul trembling at the view of his past life, dreads a separation from its dust, Thou shalt then calm his fears, and inspire him with confidence. Thou shalt turn his eyes from my rigorous justice, and fix them on my long suffering and tender mercies. Hasten now towards the earth to meet the soul of ABEL. Thou MICHAEL go with him, and declare to the murderer the sentence pronounc'd against him. Thus spoke the ETERNAL, and again the thunder thrice echo'd through the lofty arch of Heaven. The archangel,

with rapid wing, pass'd through the celestial ranks. The gates of the divine abode spontaneously opening to the heavenly messengers, they travers'd the boundless expanse on all sides resplendent, amidst suns without number, and alighted on the earth.

The angel of death call'd forth the soul of ABEL from the ensanguin'd dust. It advanc'd with a smile of joy. The more pure and spirit'ous parts of the body flew off, and mixing with the balsamic exhalations, wafted by the zephyrs from the flowers which sprung up within the compass irradiated by the angel, environ'd the soul, forming for it an ethereal body. It saw with a transport till then unknown, the bright messenger coming towards it.

I salute thee. said the celestial spirit, while beniginity and joy beam'd in his eyes: I salute thee, O happy soul, now disengag'd from thy incumbering dust. Receive my embraces. It is to me an encrease of felicity, that I am chosen by the Most HIGH to introduce thee into the realms of light and bliss, where myriads of angels wait to hail thee. Conceive if thou canst, beloved soul! conceive what it is to behold God face to face—to have communion with
Him

Him for ever. Thou art going to experience the riches of his grace, the wonders of his love. Thou wilt soon know the immense rewards with which he recompenses virtue. O thou, who hast first laid down thy covering of dust, to be cloth'd in light, I once more embrace thee.

Permit me also to embrace thee, celestial friend, reply'd the soul : and overpower'd by the extatic sense of its beatitude, it reclin'd on the angel. Delight extreme ! — bliss inexpressible : While my soul was imprison'd in the perishing clay, from which it is now releas'd, I meditated in solitude, by the mild and soft light of the unclouded moon, on the charms of virtue, on the glories of my God. These sublime objects even then, elevated me above myself, and I experienc'd, without knowing it, a faint dawn of the felicity I at present taste. But how much more attractive now are the charms of virtue ? How are my ideas of the DIVINE attributes exalted and enlarg'd ! What new thoughts ! — What are now the beauties of the spring ! O Sun ! where is now thy dazzling lustre ? The enraptur'd soul again embrac'd the angel, and continued to utter its transports, Eternity now is mine. All sublunary cares

are at an end. I shall forever be employ'd in praising my GOD, who with unbounded beneficence bestows never ending felicity on the soul that pants after virtue, and delights in the beauty of goodness. Forever shall I exalt his name : forever shall I enjoy ineffable bliss : for I shall see him as he is.

Thus did these two happy spirits interchange reciprocal endearments, and the sweet embrace. Follow me, said the archangel : follow my flight. Let us quit the earth ? nothing here can now be dear to thee, but the virtuous. Regret not to leave them behind : for after a few more rising and setting suns, they too will partake of your felicity. At present the celestial choir waits with ardent expectation thy coming. Haste to embrace your new friends, and join with them in incessant hallelujahs to the ETERNAL.

I follow thee, replied the righteous soul. Into what a torrent of delight and felicity art thou conveying me, dear and respectable friend, whose nature is so far superior to mine ? O my belov'd kindred, whom I leave still embodied in dust ; who must still remain in this vale of tears : when the days of your life are fulfill'd, when the hour of
your

your desolation is at hand, and the celestial introducer of souls shall descend to meet you, I will accompany him ; for at the foot of the ALMIGHTY'S throne I will beg this grace. With what joy shall I see your pure and holy souls rise from this seat of corruption, from this region of death ! and thou too, THIRZA, my dear and tender companion ! when thou hast yet a little longer wept over my mouldering dust, and hast rear'd to virtue the infant that now but beginning to prattle forth its thoughts, thou must be the prey of death. What rapture ? when thy soul, quitting the cold clay, shall fly into mine arms.

Thus spoke ABEL, and, rising in the air, began to loose sight of the earth. As his eyes were taking a last look of the dwellings, whose inhabitants were still dear to him, he beheld his brother : remorse was imprinted on his countenance : his clench'd hands were held over his head : he suddenly lifted up his eyes to Heaven, then, frantic with despair, struck, with repeated blows, his throbbing breast : he cast himself in agony on the earth, and roll'd in the dust. Tears of compassion burst from the eyes of the happy, and he turned aside from the frightful scene. His heavenly conductor
was

was joined by multitudes of angels ! the tutelar spirits of the earth surrounded the celestial traveller. : they congratulated the soul of ABEL, on its deliverance from sin and death : they embrac'd him in holy rapture ; and having escorted him to the confines of the terrestrial atmosphere, they reclin'd on a crimson cloud, and to the soft lute and silver harp, join'd the melody of their celestial voices, chanting in chorus,

He rises ! the new inhabitant of heaven rises to his native land. Render him homage, ye brilliant constellations, which roll in the immensity of space : render homage, with gladness to the fruitful earth, your companion. What glory to that opaque sphere, to have nourish'd in its dust, a being prepar'd for the joys of immortality ! Glow ye fields, with brightest verdure ; reflect, ye hills, a purer light !

He rises ! the new inhabitant of Heaven rises to his native land. Legions of angels wait his arrival at the celestial portals, With what rapture will they welcome their new companion to the seats of bliss ! They will crown him with unfading roses, What will be his transport, when he traverses the flowery fields of Heaven ! when under aromatic bowers of eternal verdure

he

he joins the angelic choir in their song of praise; ascribing glory, honour, power, and dominion, to the source of happiness, the sole principle of all good.

Already have we celebrated the day when his soul descended from the hands of its CREATOR, and enter'd into its body of earth. Already, O festive day! hast thou been celebrated, and we will still celebrate thee. We saw his young mind improve in every virtue. It hasten'd to maturity and strength, like the lily in the spring, We have seen with joy, his aspirations to perfection. Invisible, we have beheld the uniformity of his life, the consistency of his actions. We have join'd in his devout praises, we have sympathiz'd in his tender sorrow. His virtuous tears have given joy to the angels. Virtue was his motive and guide. Forever shall he enjoy the rewards of virtue.

He rises! the new inhabitant of Heaven rises to his native land. Receive him ye sons of light! crown him with celestial roses! Honour him whom the Most HIGH delighteth to honour. Yonder like a faded flower, lies the dust he hath abandoned. Parent earth, receive in thy bosom, Again receive the precious dust. Each spring it shall

produce odoriferous flowers. Each year we will solemnize the day in which his righteous soul quitted the earth.

Thus they sung, then borne on their lucid cloud, descended to the earth.

CAIN wander'd in despair among the bushes. He rovd from place to place : but change of situation decreas'd not the horror that had lodg'd itself in the convuls'd heart. Thus the traveller in vain quickens his pace ; in vain exerts his skill and strength to avoid an irritated serpent ; the reptile pursues him with his poisonous breath ; it encircles his limbs ; it fixes its sting ; Where shall he fly from torture ? already convulsions seize his wounded breast, the mortal poison flows to his heart. So CAIN vainly strove to fly his pain. Oh that I could no more see the streaming blood ! he cry'd. I fly, but the blood follows me still—still it runs to my feet. Where shall I fly—Where ?——Miserable that I am——His last look !——What have I done ? The dreadful deed is the work of Hell——I already feel its tortures ! I have, with him, murdered his unborn offspring——Ah, what noise is that among the bushes ? Why sighs the dead ?——Away, haste my feet far away from

from the pursuing blood—far away from the dreadful sight of death!—Drag me away, ye trembling knees, sprinkled with a brother's blood, to Hell. At these words he walk'd with fast and unequal steps.

A black cloud alighted at his feet, from the midst of which issued a voice, saying, CAIN, where is thy brother?—I know not——miserable me!——am I my brother's keeper? answered he stammering and retreating back, pale as the lifeless corpse of ABEL. Loud thunders now burst from the cloud; the grass and bushes blaz'd around him, and MICHAEL the archangel, stood before him array'd in terror. On his majestic brow were imprinted the menaces of the LORD. In his right hand he held the forked lightening, and extended his left arm over the appall'd sinner. He spoke, and it again thundered, Stop tremble! Hear thy sentence. Thus saith the LORD: What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me. Thou art curst on the earth, which hath drank the blood of thy brother, shed by thy hand. To thee it shall be barren, and thou shalt be a vagabond on its surface. The terrified sinner was mute and immoveable: his head bent, and his eyes

eyes fixed on the ground, while his heart was torn with anguish, like that of the impious Atheist, when God terrible in judgment, shakes the earth, and he sees the prophaned temples and the sumptuous palaces of sinners shake to their foundations, and fall into ruins; while his ears are terrify'd with the groans of the dying, the sobs of grief, and the shrieks of despair. In this convulsion of nature, thick smoke and flames burst from the cleft earth. Wild with horror he attempts to fly. He staggers on the tremulous ground. He reels. He falls. Equal terror shook the fratricide. He attempts to speak? but only inarticulate stammering came from his trembling lips, while dread still kept his eyes fixed on the earth. At length he cry'd, in a voice which spoke his anguish: My crime is too great—ah, much too great, ever to be forgiven! Now, O inexorable God! Thou has curs'd me on the earth, and—Where can I hide myself, from thy presence?—Banish'd from society—a vagabond—the first who meets me will slay me, and rid the earth of an infamous murderer.

A vengeance seven-fold more dreadful than thine, shall fall on him who sheds thy blood,

blood, said the angel, speaking again in thunder. Dark disquietude and gnawing remorse are strongly imprinted on thy brow. By these marks shalt thou be known, and all on seeing thee, shall quit the path made by thy wandering feet, crying, There goes CAIN the murderer. The angel having thus announc'd the divine anathema, disappeared. Thunder again issu'd from the rising cloud : a dreadful whirlwind tore up by the roots the trees and bushes, with a noise that resembled the howling of malefactors suffering under the agonies of penal torture.

CAIN stood motionless, Despair glar'd in his eyes : yet fierceness was still seen in his bushy brows. The furious winds shook his erect hair. Wild fear, at length, forc'd from his livid and quivering lips, these horrid accents. Why has he not annihilated me ?—Wherefore has he not annihilated me ? that no traces of me might remain in the creation. Why was I not blasted by his lightnings ? Why did not his thunder strike me to the depths of the earth ?—But his ire reserves me for perpetual sufferings—torments without end—Detested by my fellow creatures.—all nature abhors me—I abhor myself—
Already

Already the attendants on guilt haunt me ;
shame, remorse, despair. — Shut out from
human society, banish'd from God, I shall
while on earth, feel the torments of Hell—
I feel them now. Curs'd be thou O arm,
which so hastily executed the impulses of
passion, mayst thou wither on my body
like the blighted limb of a tree ! Curs'd
be the hour when a dream from Hell de-
ceived me !—and thou, infernal fiend, who
suggested it. Where art thou now ? that
I may curse thee ! Art thou return'd to
Hell ? mayst thou there suffer incessantly,
what I now feel ! Nothing worse can I
wish thee. This is your triumph, ye spi-
rits of darkness ! Gaze on ye devils, and
wonder at my misery !—Spent with agony
he sat down on the trunk of a fallen tree,
and remain'd without strength or voice,
motionless as the dead. Then starting, he
cry'd, Ha ! what noise is that ? it is the
voice of murdered ABEL !—He groans—
I see his streaming blood ! O my brother !
my brother ! in pity to my inexpressible
anguish, cease to haunt me ! He now con-
tinued sitting in speechless agony, sighs
only bursting from his tortur'd heart.

In the mean time the father of mankind,
with his amiable spouse, having left their
cottage,

cottage, came forth to enjoy the fragrance and beauty of the early day. With what majesty does the sun dart his first rays ! cry'd EVE. How they gild the flimsy mist that hovers over yonder field ! How charming the appearance of the country ! Let us walk on, ADAM, amid the dew, till the hour of labour calls thee to the field and me to our dwelling. O my beloved ! the earth is still lovely ! See, ADAM, how all the creatures rejoice ! each bush, each eminence pours forth their melody ! The beasts too, how they frisk and bound, and chase each other ! with what gaiety and life do they welcome the morning rays !

ADAM answer'd, Yes, my love, the earth is still beautiful. It still bears visible marks of the presence of GOD, and of His infinite goodness, which our folly and ingratitude have not yet been able to exhaust. Yes, His mercy, His munificence, which exceed the power of words to express, are too great for the rejoic'd heart to conceive. Let us hasten, EVE, through these flow'ry fields to the smiling pastures where ABEL feeds his flock. Perhaps we may find that amiable, that dutiful son, chanting his morning hymn, and in devout melody praising his CREATOR.

Dear ADAM, return'd EVE, let us first go to the field of CAIN. I have in this basket brought a little present for my first-born. I have cull'd out some of the best of my figs, and a few bunches of the finest dry'd grapes. They will be an agreeable refreshment for him, when at mid-day he retires to the shade, faint and fatigu'd with labour. Let us go to him first, my spouse; for fain would I erase from his mind, the idea, that he is not belov'd by us with the same affection that we love his brother.

How attentive, my dearest, is thy tenderness! reply'd ADAM; I will accompany thee with joy to the field of CAIN. Let us carry him thy present, that he may not say, all our concern and love are lavish'd on ABEL. May the serenity of this delightful morning dispose his heart to the impressions of tenderness! They now redoubled their pace, and walk'd towards the open country. How happy, said EVE, as she was going on: how happy should I think myself, if when nature thus smiles, and awakens every sentiment of tenderness and joy, our first-born receives us with affection! if his heart is open to the soft sensations of filial love.

They

They now came from behind some bushes, EVE walking a little before, when suddenly stepping back, she cry'd, with a tremulous voice, who lies there?—ADAM who's that lies there?—he lieth not like one asleep—His face is on the ground.—Those golden locks are ABEL's—ADAM, why do I tremble?—ABEL, ABEL, awake—awake, my son—turn to me thy face. Turn to me thy face. Awake, ah awake, dear son, from a sleep that freezes me with terror! They approach nearer, What do I see! cry'd ADAM, trembling and retiring back. Blood! blood trickling from his temples! His head is cover'd with blood!—O ABEL! O my son!—my son!—my dear son! cry'd EVE, lifting up his arm stiffen'd by death, then sunk pale as the object she lamented, on ADAM's throbbing breast. Horror and grief depriv'd them both of voice, when CAIN, frantic with despair, came without design to the place where lay the dead body of his brother, and seeing near the corpse, his father motionless, and his mother pale and lifeless in his arms, he cry'd out, trembling, He is dead!—I kill'd him!—Curs'd be the hour, O father of men! when thou begattest me! And thou

woman, curs'd be the instant when thou broughtest me forth——He is dead!—I kill'd him! repeated he, and fled.

Two lovers united by a sense of their mutual perfections, enjoying sweet converse, sit near each other. A tempest suddenly arises: the subtle lightnings dart—the blue flame quivers o'er their heads. Each strives to succour each—alas! in vain—embracing still, they living seem, though void of life. Thus our first parents sat pale and silent, without sign of life, except an universal trembling. ADAM first recovered from his lethargy of stupid grief! Wheream I? he cry'd in broken accents. How I tremble!—My GOD! my GOD!—Ah there he lies!—wretched father!—What horrors shake my soul!—How can I support the dreadful thought!—His brother kill'd him!—he has cursed us!—O ABEL! O my son? my veins are chilled; my blood runs cold. Ah miserable parent! One son has cursed thee, the other lies before thee embru'd in his own blood. What evils, what torments have I brought on myself, and my wretched offspring!—Ah fatal sin!—And thou too EVE, awakest not!—How my terrors encrease! Art thou dead too?—Am I left alone the prey to anguish

anguish? Yet, O GOD, in the midst of desolation I adore Thy decrees, I revere Thy justice, I am a sinner. An icy coldness insinuates itself into my beating heart. My eyes fail. O Death, why delayest thou? O ABEL! O my dear son! He then again cast a look on the body: the tears flow'd down his venerable face, and with them ran the cold sweat. Thou at last awakest, dear EVE, he continued: but alas! to what inexpressible tortures dost thou awake! Ah what distress is seen in thy weeping eyes, dear companion of my misery.

ADAM, reply'd EVE, in a fearful accent, is the murderer gone? the voice of cursing thunders no more—I no longer hear the voice of his cursing. Curse me—me alone, barbarous fratricide, I was the first sinner. O my child! — my child! — O ABEL, my dearest son! — She now sunk from the arms of ADAM on the dead. My son — my son, she cry'd, speaking to the insensible clay: 'thine eyes are fix'd; no more they turn on me.—Awake, awake! Alas I call in vain: he is dead! — That is death! — the death with which we were threatened when curs'd by GOD after the fall. O insufferable torment! I was the first sinner! — O my husband! spouse lov'd and dear! thy tears rend my heart.

It was I that seduced thee, Of me—of me, O weeping father, demand thy son's blood!—Of me, your brother, my wretched children! — me—me curse, murderer of brothers! but spare your father—I was the first sinner! O my son! my son! thy blood rises against me! It accuses me! unhappy parent! Thus lamented the mother of the human race, while her tears stream'd on the congealed blood.

ADAM cast on his wife looks full of tenderness and grief: Dear EVE, said he, what exquisite pangs thou givest my bursting heart! Cease, I entreat thee, cease thus to torment me! I conjure thee, by our miseries, by our tender love, I conjure thee, to cease thus reproaching thyself! We both have sinned, we both are guilty. The bitter consequences of our crimes are but too sad remembrances of our ingratitude and folly. But the ALMIGHTY whom we have offended, the GOD who chastises us, still regards with a pitying eye—Yes, my GOD! we are yet allowed to supplicate thee in our distress. Thou hast not utterly destroyed the sinner. We yet live, EVE, and our souls are out of the reach of death. It can only strip us of this body, subject to pain and grief. Our immortal souls will,
If

If we are virtuous, triumph over death, and enjoy permanent felicity in the realms of happiness and glory, where we shall behold the light of God's countenance, and incessantly praise him to all eternity. This, my beloved, ought to be our great consolation; but—his murderer is his brother. Ah! my first-born kill'd his brother.

Yes, dear son! cry'd EVE, her tears still flowing: death has delivered thee from solitude, pain, and grief. Thou art no more expos'd to suffer. We should wish to follow thee. Alas we must still endure tribulation and inquietudes from which thou art now exempt. But can I cease to weep, while I remember thy virtue, thy piety, thy filial love? O ADAM, what a sight of horror is that precious body! Where are those smiles, the sweet emanations of filial tenderness, that us'd to be seen on his countenance? how faded, how livid are his bloody cheeks! We shall no more hear from those lips seraphic harmony! no more have our souls rais'd to God by his angelic converse! no more will they express the endearing sensations of his heart! — Those eyes, now fixed in death, with what delight and transport have I seen them shed tears of joy, when I have given him

him signs of the love—the inexpressible love that warm'd my heart, charm'd with his spotless virtue : Ah my son ! thy weeping mother must forever deplore thy death. O sin, sin, dreadful are thy inroads ! what hideous forms dost thou assume ! ABEL—dear ABEL !—I thy mother, thine unhappy mother—exquisite woe !—am also the mother of the murderer !—Here, her speech again failing, she remain'd motionless on the cold corpse, void of sensation. When ADAM, with a deep sigh, cry'd, How am I abandon'd ! All around me is a gloomy desert. Nature seems to have chang'd her face. No longer she seems to smile on me. Alas, he is dead !—he who fill'd my life with soft consolation, sweet pleasure, and gladd'ning hope, is no more ! Dear ABEL ! is it true that thou art dead ?—Is it—can it be true that it was CAIN—that horror of nature ; who—O GOD ! thou beholdest our extreme desolation. O pardon—pardon our lamentations ! forgive us, that we lie mourning in the dust like a worm (and what are we more in thy sight ?) pardon us, though we mourn in the dust like the trampled worm, half crush'd by the heedless foot of the passenger.

ADAM now stood pale and silent as the statue

statue of Grief on a mossy tomb surrounded with funeral cypress. At length he turn'd to the body of his murdered son, and stooping to EVE, he gently withdrew her feeble hand from the corpse, and pressed it with ardour to his breast. EVE, my dear companion, awake, said he, hanging over her : awake, dear spouse, awake. Turn thy looks on me ! Cease to wash with tears the insensible dust. Sink not thus under the weight of thy grief. Has thy sorrow for thy son stifled all thy tenderness, all concern for me, thine husband ? Turn, dear spouse, turn thy looks on me ! It is just that we should feel, keenly feel our loss : that the horrors of death should terrify us. That we should mourn the fatal consequences of sin : but to be thus overcome by grief : thus overpower'd by dejection, is criminal. It is as if we reproached ETERNAL JUSTICE, as punishing with too much severity. O EVE, give not way to this culpable despair, lest DIVINE MERCY, irritated by our obstinacy, should deem us unworthy of consolation. EVE immediately turn'd her face from the body towards ADAM, and raising her humid eyes to Heaven, said, Forgive, O GOD ! forgive my grief ; pardon my tears ! Do you my
dearest

dearest spouse, my love, my life, forgive my sorrow! my distress is beyond all words! yet thou still lovest me—me who seduc'd thee to commit the crime we now deplore.

—Thou hatest me not, though this frightful murder of one of thy sons by the other, is the result of my transgression. Ah ADAM, let me weep in thine arms, let me once more weep on my child's body, and mingle my tears with his blood: She then press'd her face, bedew'd with tears, on ADAM's hand.

Thus griev'd and lamented the parents of the human race over the first dead; when ADAM, casting his dejected eyes around, beheld at a distance one of the celestial messengers; the fragrant flowers which sprung up at each step, indicated the light vestiges of his feet. His serene brow announced peace: consolation, amity and affection smil'd on his lips and cheeks: and the sweetness of his eyes spoke sympathizing complacency. A white vesture brighter than the clouds which surround the nocturnal planet, fluttered in waving folds on his beauteous form. The angel advanc'd towards them, while his presence seem'd to enliven with fresher verdure the smiling country: EVE, said the father of men,
raise

raise thine eyes, dry up thy tears, suppress thy sighs : behold ! one of the children of Heaven is coming to comfort us. See, with what benignity he approaches ! Already a ray of divine consolation has darted into my benighted soul, Already my heart has lost part of the oppressive load under which it groan'd. I acquiesce, O my God ! in Thine appointments : I adore thy judgments : with gratitude and love I acknowledge Thy mercies. Weep no more, EVE. Rise, let us meet the friendly angel.

EVE, supported by her spouse, arose, and the bright spirit stood before them. He regarded with attention the first prey of death : but soon turn'd his eyes on ADAM and EVE, whose faces now reflected the luminous brightness of the angel : and in a sweet and harmonious voice, said, Be blest, O ye who are weeping over the spoils of death in your son ! May ye be blest ! The Most HIGH hath permitted me to visit you in your affliction. Among the angels who are commission'd to watch over and guard the inhabitants of this earth, none lov'd ABEL more than I. I was constantly near him, when the orders of the ETERNAL did not oblige me to absent.

When his exalted soul, inflam'd with

love of virtue, vented his rapturous sensations in tears of holy joy, or in devout hymns, which the tutelar spirits disdain'd not to sing in their concerts, I inspired him with such ideas of his future felicity, as it was possible he could be susceptible of while united to his dust. Weep not for him; mourn not for him, like the children of despair. He is happy. His immortal soul survives. Let this soften your grief. Death has only detach'd it from a weak and frail body. Without interruption or incumbrance, he now enjoys whatever can delight a wise and good being. His happiness far exceeds all you can imagine, while you only see thro' the dark medium of the senses. He is with the angels and archangels before the throne of God. Yet weep, my friends, he well deserv'd your love. Lament your loss; but let his unspeakable gain dry up your tears. You are not separated forever. Soon shall the angel of death visit you also--soon will you be united to your beloved son, to part no more. The pale King of Terrors will assume to each of you, a different form; but you will receive him as becomes the candidates for future happiness, and welcome him as a friend long expected. Listen, O ADAM! to the order of thy God. Restore this corruptible body to

its origin the dust : dig a pit, cover it with earth. Thus spoke the angel, while benevolence and pity appear'd in every look, and every gesture. Desolation fled. Despair was no more. Thus the pure water of a limpid spring refreshes the spent traveller, who having long trod the scorching sands of the desert, pants with thirst and fainting under the sun's too ardent rays, is sinking to the earth : but no sooner has he drank the crySTALLINE draught, than he rests his fatigu'd limbs in peace on the brink, and feels a fresh recruit of strength. He rises with new vigour, and following the stream's murmuring course thro' a fertile country, at length arrives at some hospitable mansion, whose friendly proprietor entertains him with generous munificence under embowering shades.

ADAM, whose soul was calm'd and reviv'd by noble and elevated sentiments, viewing the dazling lustre of the angel, as he withdrew, said, Accept of our grateful thanks, celestial friend ! Prais'd, prais'd for ever be Thy name, O GOD MOST HIGH ! Thy loving kindness, Thy tender mercies are not withdrawn from the sinner. Thou with compassion dost behold our distress : Thou commandest thine angels

to enlighten our souls, and bring us comfort. No longer will we mourn in the dust—no longer will we despair, like the spirits of darkness, who are banish'd from Thine all-enlivening presence. We are still surrounded by Thy bounties : still permitted to praise thee, to supplicate thy favour, to adore thy wisdom, to celebrate thy goodness. Thus ennobled, shall we repine and murmur at thy dispensations, if the thorns and briars of affliction are scattered in the way of our pilgrimage, to the bosom of our father, the dwelling of our God ? We cannot, indeed, entirely restrain our tears for the happy deceased : we must regret his being thus suddenly snatch'd from our embraces : but alas ! the unhappy criminal ought rather to be the object of our grief, the subject of our most earnest prayers. O God ! what an alleviation would it be to our sorrows, if we dared to hope that thy mercy had not cast him off forever. O my MAKER ! he, unhappy ! —he miserable ! is the first fruit of my loins—the first whom EVE brought forth with pain. Let us not cease, my dearest spouse, to implore the tender mercies of God for him. We will not doubt his loving kindness : we ourselves were sinners :

ners : we were unworthy of his infinite grace ; yet he has encouraged us to confide in his promises. When all trembling we expected eternal chastisement, little did we hope for mercy. But let us not defer to execute the command of the LORD. I will carry this dear body to our dwelling, and there commit the precious dust to the earth.

O ADAM ! O my love ! return'd EVE, my soul emerges from overwhelming sorrow ; conscious of my own weakness, I support myself, by thy strength, as the flexible ivy clings to the firm oak.

ADAM, now by the assistance of his weeping spouse, lifted the corpse on his shoulders, and sighing under the sad burden, slowly moved towards the dwelling, while EVE walk'd weeping by his side.

THE
DEATH
OF
ABEL.
BOOK V.

NOW THIRZA, whose sleep had been disturb'd by terrifying visions, opened her eyes to the bright luminary of day, and precipitately quitted her bed. So leaps up the affrighted traveller, who, when spent with fatigue, had laid himself down under the shelter of a rock, when a terrifying dream, suggested by his guardian angel represents to him the rock falling over him: trembling he hastens from the dangerous spot; an instant after the huge mass falls with hideous noise. He seeks the companion of his toilsome journey: but alas! he is crush'd under the ruins. Not less agitated was the wife of ABEL.
What

What frightful images, said she, have pass'd before me, while I slept ! They resemble nothing in nature. Welcome chearful light, thou hast scatter'd them. Hail, ye glowing flowers, sweet objects of my attentive care, your various odours, which the morning sun draws forth, will refresh my fatigu'd brain ; and ye joyous inhabitants of the air, your soft melody will re-establish serenity in my soul. I will join your morning song. I will join with re-animating nature, in praises to the Most HIGH. CREATOR ALMIGHTY ; SAVIOUR PROPITIUS ! my soul, overpowered by thy goodness, can but imperfectly express the immensity of thy benefits, and the extent of its gratitude. Thy ever-waking Providence guards thy creatures, when cover'd by the veil of night, sleep weighs down their eyelids. May my grateful thanks arise to thee, O God ; Accept from a feeble worm the tribute of praise.

She now left the dwelling, and walk'd among the open flowers, whose first sweets were diffus'd by the morning breeze. My heart still throbs said she, still anxiety is lodged in my breast. What mean those unusual fears ? an interior trembling seems to shake

shake my very soul. My mind is darken'd like the heavens, when black clouds spread through the expanse. Where art thou, ABEL? Where art thou, my beloved? Dearest half of myself? I haste, pursued by gloomy terrors, to lose them in thine arms. I fly to thee with the speed that thou wouldest fly, if, benighted in a dark forest, thy feet were winged by fear.

Having thus spoke, she redoubled her pace, when MAHALA seeing her, ran from her cottage to meet her. I salute thee my dearest sister she cry'd. Whither art thou going in such haste, with thine hair disordered, without ornament, not so much as one flower? I go, replied THIRZA, to throw myself in the arms of my beloved. Unusual terrors have this night disturb'd my sleep, and my labouring heart is oppress'd by sad apprehensions, which the serenity of this delightful morning is not able to disperse. But though the blooming day, though the smiles of Nature cannot dispel my fears, I shall lose them in the gladdening presence of my husband; I therefore run to cast myself in his arms.

The spouse of CAIN reply'd, with a sigh, happy sister! alas, I have no such sweet resource, I should be lost to all consolation,
were

were it not for a father who loves, and a tender mother, to whom I am dear :— were it not for thee, my kind sister, and thine amiable husband. Yes, with you I lose part of the woe that CAIN's discontent heaps on my wretched head. To him, unhappy ! all the beauties of nature are sources of melancholy, and he continually regrets the labour which his fertile fields so abundantly repay. But, my dearest THIRZA, above all I lament his unkind and causeless dislike to our gentle brother. MAHALA now melted into tears, THIRZA wept also, and tenderly embracing her, reply'd, Penetrated by the same idea, ABEL and I spend many anxious hours in bewailing his inveterate hatred. Our resource is the hand of heaven. Often in sleepless nights we send our most fervent petitions to GOD, that a beam of His grace may disperse the dark clouds from his breast ; that every baneful weed may be rooted out from his heart, lest they choak all principles of humanity and virtue. Ah ! my sister ! was thy husband kind and gentle, again would peace smile—again would pleasure bless our dwellings, and we should no longer with pain behold the brow of our venerable father wrinkled by care, nor the
eyes

eyes of our fond mother swell'd with weeping.

MAHALA, still in tears, answer'd, This, this is also the subject of my incessant prayer. When the earth is cover'd with darkness, while all nature is hush'd, I bewail in silence the harsh obduracy of my spouse, and pray to the LORD to soften his heart. Sometimes the agony of my soul bursts forth in spite of myself, in sobs and groans. Then he awakes, and in a terrifying voice, accuses me of depriving him of sleep, the only good he enjoys on this wretched earth, so severely accurs'd by the ALMIGHTY AVENGER of sin. My dearest sister, this too is the employment of my mind, while my hands are busied in domestic labour. My innocent children playing around me, observe my tears, and demand, with infantine caresses, why I weep? Ah THIRZA. THIRZA! I am faded by grief, like a young flower, when the thick branches of some neighbouring tree intercept from it the sun's all-cheering rays. My unhappy husband this very day, left our dwelling before the dawn. His looks were terrible. Never did I see so dark a gloom on his countenance. Anger flash'd from his eyes: his brows were knit
by

THE DEATH OF ABEL.

by rage. Frozen with horror, I heard him as he went forth curse the hour of his birth. This, my sister, was his salute to so fine a morning. 'Tis true, I have not lost all hope ; for sometimes (and thou thyself hast observed it) his virtue breaks through the gloom, and his mind is open to the soft sensations of social love. Then he acknowledges that he hath injured us, asks forgiveness, and seeks reconciliation. But alas : too soon the light withdraws : as in the tempestuous days of winter, the sun darts a chearing ray, and is instantly hid from our eyes by the closing clouds. Let us hope, THIRZA, that as mild spring restores light and joy to all nature, so the heart of my unhappy husband may be restor'd to light and peace. For this we will incessantly petition Heaven. I have always nourish'd this hope in the bottom of my heart.

Thus spake MAHALA, when THIRZA, pale and trembling, cry'd, What mournful sound is that ?—it comes from yonder trees——is it not the cry of pain——from yonder trees——O my sister !—MAHALA !——alas ! it comes nearer—O my GOD !——THIRZA was now sinking to the ground.

ground, but her alarm'd sister supported her in her arms.

ADAM, with tottering steps was coming from behind the trees, bending under the sad load of his son's lifeless body. EVE walk'd by his side ; sometimes she turn'd her face, faded by grief, towards the bloody corpse : then hid it under her hair, dropping with her tears.

TRIRZA, continued pale and motionless in the arms of MAHALA, who was herself ready to sink under the weight of her she endeavour'd to sustain. Thus three amiable virgins, (but none ever felt such fond affection) in a summer's eve walk hand in hand over the variegated fields. Sudden the thunder roars, the rapid lightning tears the earth under their feet : terrify'd, they fall : but soon recovering from their surprise, two of them rise, the third a cinder. The survivors are struck with new horror, more dreadful than that caus'd by the thunder.

This was the situation of the two daughters of ADAM, when a little recovering, they beheld the corpse of him they lov'd. The afflicted father had laid it on the grass, and was supporting in his arms his fainting wife, who, weaken'd by grief, was near fall-

falling to the earth. Where am I ! cry'd THIRZA : O my GOD : where am I—How he lies ?—ABEL—Why did I awake ? Hateful light—Ah unhappy that I am—MAHALA !—Ah me, miserable !—See, see my sister, he lies dead !—Sight horrible !—Sight hateful !—Why did I awake ?

THIRZA, cry'd MAHALA, in a tremulous voice : let us not give way to vain terrors—to me—to me also the idea is dreadful as the forked lightning—Ah ! she again faints—awake THIRZA—awake—Let us go to him. He is not dead : Thy voice, thine embraces will rouse him from sleep.

After these words, the two sisters, leaning on each other, dragg'd their enfeebled limbs towards the body. Oh, my father, O my mother, how they weep !—What dreadful terrors seize me, cry'd THIRZA, as she approached near the corpse. ABEL !—dearest ABEL !—my beloved !—my joy !—my life !—my husband !—awake. Ah unutterable woe—he awakes not !—ABEL ! hear my plaintive cries, the groans of thy distress'd wife !—She then cast herself on the body, to embrace it with extended arms ; but at the sight of the blood, and fatal wound, she giving a terrifying

rising shriek, fell on the earth without voice, motion, or sign of life; pale and cold as him she mourn'd. Despair was seen in her open and fix'd eyes. Near her sat on the earth MAHALA, dissolv'd in tears: wringing her hands, she sometimes rais'd her weeping eyes to Heaven; sometimes she fixed them with eager attention on the bloody corpse.

ADAM, whose deep grief was augmented by the sorrow of his daughters, essay'd to to console them: O my dear children! O THIRZA! O MAHALA! said he; would to GOD that my anguish could keep from pain the hearts of those I love; but my beloved, hear me; listen to the soft voice of consolation. While EVE and I were weeping over this dear body, an angel, replete in beauty, came to us. He was commissioned from the Most HIGH to soothe our sorrows. Weep not, said he; be comforted. He whom you lament still exists. He has only left this frail covering of dust. Disengag'd from a mortal body, his soul is more happy than ye can conceive, while your souls are envelop'd in this earthly covering. Ye are not separated for ever: in a little time ye shall be reunited, ye shall enjoy with him torrents of delight, of which

which your gross senses can give you no idea. Let us not, my THIRZA—let us not MAHALA, prophane the funeral of the happy by our inconsolable lamentations—Let us not offend the ALMIGHTY by our despair.

THIRZA still remain'd without sense or motion, while the wife of CAIN, elevating her join'd hands above her head, thus express'd her grief, O my father! why do you blame our tears! Can we forbear to weep, Can we forbear to lament, while he lies before our eyes extended, cold and dead? O thou our consolation! our joy! O ABEL! thou art lost to us, and our sweetest employment will be to weep for thee till the hour of death. Yes thou art in possession of never-ending glory! thou enjoyest that beatitude after which thy holy soul so ardently panted: thou wilt for ever join with the angels in their song of praise to the Most HIGH, We too hope to partake of thy felicity, when our ALL-MERCIFUL GOD shall call us from our sad exile, this house of sorrow, rendered more desolate by thy loss. Ah, ABEL, ah, my brother! thou art lost to us, and our sweetest employment will be to weep for thee till the wish'd for hour of death. Where wert thou, CAIN, my spouse? where wert thou,

K

when

when thy brother died ? Hadst thou even then given him the fraternal embrace, and sought his forgiveness, with what affection would he have cast his weak arms around thee ! tho' expiring, he would have blest thee, and implor'd for thee the divine consolations with his dying lips. What a sweet relief would this remembrance have been to thy sorrows ! How would it have soften'd the griefs of thy future days ! But — O my mother ! — what new woe makes thine eyes stream ! — O my father speak — speak, I conjure thee — Why this horror in thy countenance ! — No answer ! — O my tortur'd heart ! — Where — say where, O my father ! — say, O my mother ! where is CAIN, my husband,

EVE reply'd, O my child ! who knows where ? pursu'd by divine vengeance — Ah my GOD ! — the unhappy — but what do I say ? — I tremble to speak it — he — he — ah me, unhappy mother ! Horrid — detestable ideas, tear not thus my wretched bosom ! Ah miserable parent that I am ! Why — he — ah my mother ! interrupted MAHALA, spare me not — spare me not, O my mother ! On me — on me let the tempest fall — I am already crush'd ; already torn by frightful apprehensions. CAIN —
O

O Heavens! CAIN has—killed him! cry'd EVE. Ah MAHALA! Ah THIRZA! CAIN kill'd him! Her excessivē grief then took from her the power of speech.

MAHALA was struck mute with terror. Her immoveable eyes shed no tears. The cold sweat trickled down her pale face, and her trembling lips were discolour'd. At length she cry'd out in agony, He kill ABEL!—CAIN my husband, kill his brother!—Where art thou fratricide? where?—Where, oh where has thy guilt pursued thee? has the thunder of the almighty God aveng'd thy brother? Dost thou cease to exist?—Where art thou most miserable? To what country of despair art thou fled, follow'd by the curse of GOD; Thus rav'd MAHALA, tearing her hair.

Barbarous fratricide! vile murderer! exclaim'd THIRZA: how could'st thou kill so kind a brother: who, doubtless, when expiring under the mortal blow given by thy cruel hand, regarded thee with eyes full of love?—Ah CAIN curst—curst be—O my sister! O THIRZA, cry'd MAHALA, interrupting her, curse him not, he is thy brother! he is my husband! Rather for him let us implore the mercies of GOD. I am sure, when falling in his blood, the holy victim of his fury cast on

him an eye of compassion, and I doubt not but he now intercedes for him at the eternal throne. Let our prayers ascend from the dust, and join those of the happy. O curse him not ; THIRZA—curse not thy brother.

Whither does the excess of my grief transport me ? answer'd THIRZA. I did not curse him, my sister. I have not cursed the unhappy. Then reclining on the corpse, she kissed the blood-besprinkled cheeks, the cold and livid lips. She remain'd long silent, indulging fruitless sorrow. At length she cry'd with a faint and interrupted voice, Would to GOD, my beloved, I had at thy death, kissed thy quivering lips ; heard the last expressions of thy love ; seen the last tender look, and receiv'd thy last embrace !—Oh that I had then expired within thine arms !—but alas ! I am left a prey to unutterable sorrow. Every object that us'd to inspire delight, will now encrease my woes. Ye shady bowers, ye now are desolate, ye can now only inspire me with terror : I shall think you ask for him, who in your fragrant retreats, was wont to embrace me in tender rapture. The murmuring fountains will enquire, what is become of my beloved ;

ed ; left forlorn, I can no more taste of joy. The shades, the streams, the hills, the plains alike to me are hateful. Alas ! no more I see with fond delight, him that made all things lovely. I shall, indeed still behold him : but oh, distressing object ! I shall behold these wan cheeks, these fix'd and sightless eyes, this clotted blood, this dreadful wound. Flow, flow my tears, forever on this pale face. What dignity once appear'd on this faded countenance ? the charms of soft persuasion dwelt on these cold and stiffen'd lips. Every beauty, every grace shone in his lovely form : but his soul, too pure, too holy to converse with mortals, to converse with me, is fled for ever ! Stream my eyes, stream without ceasing on this withered corpse, till my longing soul leaves its dust with his.

Thus lamented THIRZA, while her tears ran on the senseless body. EVE's grief was encreas'd by the sorrow of her daughters. My dearest children she cry'd, cease, I entreat you, cease thus to tear my heart ! Your tears, your sighs and groans, augment my miseries ; they are to me the most cutting reproaches, 'Tis I, 'tis I that have filled the souls of those I love with anguish ! My folly, my guilt has undone

us all ! I alas, introduc'd sin and death !
Forgive me, O my children ! forgive your
afflicted mother ! I conjure you by the
pangs I suffer'd to bring you into the
world, to forgive me ! Cease to tear my
heart by your immoderate sorrow. MA-
HALA and THIRZA ran to her, and with
looks of duteous affection, said, O our mo-
ther ! our dearest mother ! who broughtest
us forth with pain ! whose kind cares
guarded us in our infancy ! aggravate not
our distress by thy despair. We meant
not, by our complaints, to reproach thee,
our dear, our tender mother. We love,
we reverence, we honour thee, but we can-
not command our grief : it will burst from
our bosoms and eyes in sighs and tears.
How can we restrain these expressions of a
love the most tender ! they are the voice of
nature.

They still clasp'd their mother's knees,
while their weeping eyes were tenderly
fix'd on her's, when ADAM said, O my be-
loved ! let us no longer defer restoring this
precious dust to the earth as the LORD our
GOD hath commanded. The lenient
hand of time will abate our grief and dry
our tears. Victorious Reason will teach
us to conquer this unavailing Sorrow.

We

We shall long, ardently long to partake of his happiness, as the bride wishes for the day that is to unite her to her beloved. Yes commit this dear body to its parent earth, reply'd THIRZA, turning her pale and faded face to ADAM : but suffer me, O my father ! to weep a little longer ere it is hid for ever, in the dear, the precious dust ! suffer me once more to press the cold clay to my breast. At these words she threw herself with extended arms, on the corpse.

ADAM now began to dig a pit in the earth, while EVE and MAHALA stood weeping near him. When the golden-hair'd *Eliel*, and little *Josiah*, CAIN's two infant sons, approach'd hand-in-hand to the spot where lay the body. Brother—*Josiah*---said *Eliel*, who's that sobs so loud? Let's go nearer, brother. Ah that's ABEL ! —'tis ABEL, our uncle !—How pale he is !—His hair is all bloody !—He lies like a lamb going to be burnt on the altar—My dear *Eliel*, reply'd *Josiah* ; see how THIRZA weeps for him !—He don't mind her tears !—He don't look at her !—I tremble—I am frightened—Let us run to our mother.—See, see, she weeps too ! They now hasten'd to MAHALA, on the other side of the grave, and clinging about her,

her, said, O mother ! why do you weep ? Why does ABEL lie there ? Why is he all bloody, like a lamb for the sacrifice ? MAHALA tenderly embraced the infants, while her tears ran on their little heads : and said, My dear children ! Death has taken his soul from the body. It is carried up to Heaven, to dwell there with GOD and his angels, where it will be for ever happy. Then he will wake no more ! reply'd *Eliel*, bursting into tears ! He will never awake !—never ! He that loved us so dearly, and us'd to set us on his knee, and tell *Josiah* and me such fine stories about GOD, the Angels, and the wonders of Nature. Ah brother !—ah *Josiah* ! we shall never more hear ABEL sing hymns ! He will talk to us no more !—He will never, never wake ! How our father will weep for him, when he comes from the field !—How pale !—How frightful ! The terrified children now hid their faces in the folds of their mother's vestment.

ADAM having finish'd digging the grave, Wake thou, said he to THIRZA : wake my belov'd. Let us obey the DIVINE command, and return the dust to its mother earth. Wake, my THIRZA he
con-

continued, and tenderly took her hand to raise her from the corpse. She had been in a kind of a trance on the body of her husband, and now wak'd from the holy vision. Yes, I have seen him!---I have seen him! she cry'd as she arose. He came to me shining in celestial lustre. Weep not, he said, weep not my dearest THIRZA, I am happy. Soon shalt thou partake my bliss in the abodes of felicity and glory, where there is no death to separate us. At these words he disappear'd, having cast on me a divine smile; an heavenly light mark'd the traces of his feet. Thus she spoke, and consolation sublime illumin'd her visage. Inter, O my father, inter, said she, this covering of dust. And immediately went to her mother and sister. They all three hid their faces under their dishevell'd tresses, while ADAM wrapt in skins the body of his son. He laid it in the pit, and cover'd it with earth, and then said, Let us my dear wife! let us my beloved children! adore the most HIGH before this grave of the first dead. They now all prostrated themselves before the grave, little *Eliel* and his brother kneeling on each side their mother, and the father of men pronounc'd in a loud voice
this

this prayer, with his arms devoutly folded on his breast.

O thou who dwellest in the highest heaven, GOD ! CREATOR ! JUSTICE ETERNAL ! GOODNESS INFINITE ! behold us prostrate before the grave of our beloved son. We sinners kneel before Thee in the dust. O may our prayer ascend to Thy celestial throne ! Look with an eye of compassion on us, O GOD ! in the valley of death, this abode of sin. Our iniquities are great, but Thine infinite goodness is still greater. We are polluted in Thy sight: Thou beholdest our impurities. yet Thou hast not turn'd Thy face from us. Thou still vouchsafest to look on us in our misery with a propitious eye. Thou permittest us to implore Thee. Thou hast not abandoned the sinner. Eternal praises rise to Thee ! Thy works, O GOD ! render Thee praise. The beauties of spring, the serenity of the heavens shew forth thy beneficence : the loud voice of thy thunder, the rattling hail, the howling storm proclaim thy power. Smiling joy glorifies thee : thy justice is also glorified by the tears of sorrow. We have beheld the son of Sin, frightful Death. He is come to our dwelling, in a form most hideous.

Guilt

Guilt led him by the hand, the earth
 groan'd, and black tempests gather'd round
 the direful pair. The first fruits of my
 loins——ah ! I tremble——my first-born
 has embu'd his hands in his brother's
 blood ! O God Merciful and Gracious !
 tho' I presume to supplicate thee for him,
 turn not thy face from me. O GOD OF
 CLEMENCY ! cast him not off for ever.
 When he mourns in the dust for his of-
 fences, when he trembles at his crime,
 when overwhelm'd by torturing remorse,
 he weeps, he groans, and prostrates himself
 with deep contrition before thee, O my
 GOD ! look with a pitying eye on his mi-
 sery : commiserate his despair, and assuage
 his anguish by thy divine consolations. O
 my MAKER ! cast him not off forever.
 Reject not, O GOD ! reject not the pre-
 sumptuous petition ! May our prayers, our
 cries ascend to thy sublime throne from
 this grave of the first dead. We have,
 according to thy command, restor'd the
 perishing dust to the earth. Hear us,
 LORD!---LORD hear us ! while we cry
 unto thee in behalf of our first born. Let
 him not perish in thy wrath : for this grace,
 O GOD ! we will suplicate thee at the
 rising and setting sun : in the setting sun :
in

in the silent hours of night, when all nature is hush'd to rest, we will implore thee for him. O GOD OF CONSOLATION, cast him not off for ever ! Eternal praises be rendered to thee, who hast receiv'd the soul of the happy deceas'd into the regions of never-ending felicity. Death has seiz'd the first victim. We shall follow one after another to the dark and silent grave : but ador'd be thy loving-kindness, ador'd be thy tender mercies, we shall likewise follow him to the realms of immortality and bliss. O thou who createdst the Heavens ! at whose word this world arose from nothing ! they shall perish, the heavens and the earth shall pass away ; but thou art eternal. We dwell in bodies of dust. This dust shall be dissolv'd ; but Thou art unchangeable, and wilt raise to glory the sinner who deplores his crimes, and the righteous man who mourns that his virtues are mix'd with imperfections, and his highest attainments sully'd by human frailty. Thou wilt gather them together out of the dust, to bestow on them eternal joys, angelic purity ; for—O promise ineffable ! the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head. Leap for joy O earth ! chant forth the praises of the Most HIGH, all nature.

We

We will glorify His name in the midst of calamity. Man is fallen: he is degraded from his original dignity: but glory be to God, He hath not cast him off.—He hath not rejected him forever: His mercy beholds the work of his hands from the seat of judgment: He fell, whom God created upright, yet when after his fatal transgression, the sinner full of anguish stood trembling in fearful expectation of an eternal curse, and what less could he expect? then (let men and angels celebrate the glorious mystery) then the ALMIGHTY pronounc'd that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. Mystery sublime! mystery profound! wrapt in an holy obscurity, which no finite being can penetrate: but full of divine consolations. The sinner is reconcil'd to God; the offender is restor'd to peace and hope. Shall man then lament in the dust? shall he groan in despair, if the dream of life is alternately fill'd with joy and sorrow? Death approaches, it shall break the shackles of the soul, and free it from the consequences of a just malediction. Then those, who, while cloth'd in dust, forgot not their original purity, who lov'd virtue, who lov'd God, who kindled in their hearts the seraphic flame, shall be assembled together in the

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man.

mansions on high, to enjoy there incessant, eternal felicity.—I see them ! the holy assembly are present to my view, numerous beyond computing, pure as the flame which descends on the sacred altar ! They stand surrounded by angels before the throne.—They behold the face of GOD. They delight in his goodness. Beatific vision ! transporting prospect ! How is my soul rais'd ! how is my heart expanded ! raptures before unknown ! O Goodness infinite ! Grace inexpressible ! Lost in thine immensity, the first archangel can but imperfectly express his sensations !—man can only feel them.

ADAM ceas'd to speak ; but continu'd in silent ecstasy, prostrate on the earth : his wife and daughters still kneeling by his side. Nature herself observ'd the same silence : all was serene ; not a cloud pass'd over them through the lucid sky.

Now came on “ mild evening clad in sober grey,” while every breeze was hush'd. During this perfect calm, CAIN, pursu'd by guilt, was agitated with fear, horror, remorse, and sad dismay. He rovd from place to place, he wander'd in the desarts, till spent with fatigue, he sat down facing the rising moon, and thus the voice of his despair disturb'd the peaceful silence that reign'd

reign'd over all nature. There beyond that
 dark hill the moon begins her course,
 spreading around a faint light. All under
 the starry expanse imbibe a new life from
 invigorating sleep; man only wakes. My
 accursed hand has driven from his dwelling,
 peace and rest. The voice of grief and
 lamentation ascends from the cottages. 'Tis
 I,—'tis I, miserable! that have brought
 affliction to their abodes. The cries, the
 groans of my bewailing parents, rise to Hea-
 ven, as so many accusations against me. This
 day—this accursed day, hear it, O Moon!
 turn pale and hide thy beams: hear it, ye
 Stars! and set in darkness: this day the
 earth has drank the blood of the first slain,
 shed by my unnatural hand. Henceforth
 withhold from me your precious influences,
 bright luminaries! Curs'd on the ground
 I tread, banish'd from the chearful face of
 man. Hide me, hide me in the gloomy
 darkness. I have shed my brother's blood!
 I have torn the heart of him that begat
 me: I have fill'd with despair the breast of
 her who brought me forth and nourish'd
 my infancy. Hide me from the eyes of
 Nature, I have trampled on her dictates.
 I will fly—fly with misery! sad compa-
 nion! to some desert region, where no

human foot has mark'd the faded grass. I will dwell among rocks and precipices, where putrid water trickles in tears from from the steeps into the swampy abodes of loathsome reptiles: where birds of prey build their nests; where savage beasts devour their bloody carnage: alas! even these will abhor me, they kill no brothers! Shade me, darkness, from the chearing sky; shade me, some horrid gloom, from the sight of every creature; there let me lament my cruelty; there howl out my despair. When sleep overcomes me, terrors will present themselves to my imagination: —I shall behold my murder'd brother— I shall see his wounded head!—his clotted blood!

Thus CAIN beheld his wretchedness. He ceas'd, and sat abandon'd to mute grief. No bird of night disturb'd the awful stillness: frighted by sounds of human woe, they had fled in silence: a gentle murmur only floated through the air. Again he vents his sorrows, and casting his melancholy eyes around, he cries, Pity me, ye woods! Weep for me, ye fields! no words can describe my misery, and pity is due to misery. O Nature, array'd in beauty! grieve for me—for me; lost to beauty, and to happiness. Mourn for me,
each

each creature; ye taste, ye feel the efficacious presence of a gracious GOD, to me no longer gracious! I feel his wrath, I tremble at his power. He is to me only GOD the AVENGER, the JUST AVENGER of my brother's blood. For it will cry against me: my punishment is endless.

He was now silent for some moments, then, with a deep sigh, he said, I weep! Can such a wretch as I shed tears? Welcome, precious drops, yet attest to me that my miseries are soften'd. The despair which had seiz'd my soul is chang'd to plaintive grief—to weeping sorrow. Ah flow my tears! receive them. O earth! I am curs'd on thy surface, thou hast drank my brother's blood, yet oh receive these tears that shew my unspeakable distress!—What new emotions!—How is my heart soften'd!—my tears flow faster—Yes I will—Yes, while darkness hides me from every eye, I will away to the dwelling of my afflicted parents, to poor THIRZA, I will go to all, and once more see them—once more bless them—Bless them! the angry winds would disperse the salutations, as they came from my polluted lips. Ah fratricide, canst thou pronounce a blessing, thyself accurs'd! I will however go and strive to bless them in their grief, I will

weep before them, and in the dust deplore my guilt, and then—yes then I fly for ever from their reproaching eyes. Fly from thee MAHALA ! I fly for ever from my children ! Here his agony stifled his words, and he moved towards the cottages, watering with his tears the solitary way.

He was now passing a little grove, planted by the hand of ABEL near the spring. CAIN then remember'd that his brother, when he had completed this work, had said with fond affection, Flourish, ye trees ! spread wide your branches, may ye for ever bloom ! that under your refreshing shade our descendants may in affectionate converse relate to their offspring, what they will learn from us, saying, Here EVE brought forth her first-born. Here she sooth'd with her caresses his infant cries, him the first solace in her sad exile. Here she view'd him with inexpressible rapture. She call'd him Cain, saying, from the hand of the LORD have I receiv'd thee. The murderer pass'd by this monument of his brother's tenderness with quicken'd step : a remorseful sweat cover'd his averted face : his trembling knees could scarce sustain his weight. Thus at the sight of his father's grave, trembles the parricide, who with murderous dissimulation had invited the good old man, returning from the field to

to fly; but in vain he strove: he sunk refresh himself with impoison'd viands.— When he passes the tomb, the rustling of the trees which surround it, the odours of the garlands, with which his duteous sisters have crown'd the urn, raise a storm in his guilty heart.

Now CAIN had pass'd the terrifying grove, and drew near the cottages. The pale moon shed on them a feeble light through the trees, and melancholy silence reign'd around. He cast on the dwellings his weeping eyes; he rais'd his hands to Heaven; he rung them in speechless agony. Conscious guilt tore his now soften'd heart. Trembling he stood amidst the dreary stillness. At length he utter'd in a low voice this impassion'd soliloquy. How quiet deep affliction rests here!—Ah that murmur!—Are they not sighs?—They came from the cottages—from the dwellings come those piercing ejaculations of sleepless grief!—Here—here, ye once chearful mansions—here,—trembling in darkness, stands the wretch who has made you the abodes of sorrow—Here, pursu'd by infernal horrors, shudders in obscurity, he who has chas'd from the habitations of those who gave him life, peace, joy, and every domestic sweet. Dare I breathe the air through which ascend the sighs of my

mourning parents, my terrify'd wife, my widow'd sister ! Dare I appear in a spot consecrated to just grief !—grief for my crime !—Be gone, pollute not the residence of virtue.—Yes I go—I go far from you —But let my eyes, haggard with despair, yet a little longer behold your dwellings. In pity to my unspeakable anguish, allow me to weep here a little longer. Suffer me to raise to Heaven my bloody hands for your happiness. Then I go—Hail, hail ye—Ah wretch ! wilt thou prophane their sacred names ? Wilt thou pollute, with thy infected breath, titles that express the softest ties, the most exalted sensations of the human heart ? Oh that with the gloom of night, your distress, your terrors might leave you to dwell in my wretched bosom, fit companions in my wanderings on an earth whose curse I have encreas'd. Oh that I alone could endure the punishment due to my crime ! May your memories never be disturb'd by my horrid image ! Oh that I myself could lose all remembrance of myself ! Dreadful wish of extreme desolation.

CAIN having thus spoke, remain'd still near the cottages. He groan'd, he rais'd his eyes to Heaven ; when he heard the footsteps of one advancing slowly through the gloom. A cold shivering, like the agonies of death, seiz'd his limbs. He strove

down, trembling, without strength among the bushes.

THIRZA, the first night of her sad widowhood, unable to sleep, had quitted her lonely bed. She left her cottage, and went to the grave of her husband, where seating herself on the damp grass, she wept among the clods. She view'd with fix'd eyes the starry firmament, then turning to the grave, said, Here lies all that made life desirable: all my repose, all my joy lies under this earth, which now imbibes my tears. Sleep has forsaken my weary'd eyelids: no rest remains for me. Flow on, flow on my tears, ye are my sole consolation: my melancholy hours shall be spent in bewailing thy loss, my dearest, husband!—shall be spent near thy precious remains in gloomy sadness! 'Tis true, I have seen thee—I have seen my beloved array'd in heavenly glory: but ah! I am depriv'd of his sweet society, of his tenderness, his endearing care, thro' the remainder of a life of calamity and wretchedness. In vain I try'd to rest on the conjugal couch: my spirits forsook me: I almost fainted, while the sweet pledge of our love lay by me, lock'd in the arms of sleep. The little innocent smil'd in his guiltless slumbers. Alas! he knows not yet the woes of mortals—Alas! he knows

knows not yet the woes of mortals—Alas !
he knows not his own irreparable loss !
Ah my infant ! I deplore thy misfortune,
for ever depriv'd of a tender father, an in-
structor of thy childhood, a guide to thy
youth, and the friend to thy riper years.
Thy wretched mother a prey to keen dis-
tress, torn by heart-piercing anguish, will
want the strength—will want the wisdom
to supply thy loss. O my child, how are
we bereav'd ! How is every comfort ra-
vish'd from us !—Horrid reflection ! ra-
vish'd from us by the hand of a brother !
Where is he ?—Where is the miserable ?
—Where has his remorse—where has
his despair driven him ? O THOU INFI-
NITE CLEMENCY ! GOD PROPITIOUS !
despise not my supplications, turn not from
my prayer, while with unweary'd fervor I
entreat Thee for him. Hear him, O GOD
OF GRACE AND CONSOLATION, when he
cries to Thee from the dust—when in
deep penitence and sincere contrition of
heart, he bewails his crime, and implores
Thy mercy.

Her agony of soul now stopt her voice :
but soon she cry'd, as she rais'd her weep-
ing eyes to Heaven, Bright star of night,
often hast thou been witness of our chaste
endearments, when thy soft light illumin'd
our

our path. Often hast thou been witness to his sublime converse, when he describ'd the charms of virtue ; the delights of an approving conscience. Thou now canst only shed thy beams on his silent grave. Bury'd in this dust lies every human excellence : the consolation, the hope, the joy of his weeping parents ! Here sleeps to wake no more, my love, my life, my husband ! She now continu'd long silent, abandoned to speechless grief. At length surveying the objects round her, she fix'd her melancholy eyes on the fragrant enclosure, where she and her dear companion us'd to pass their most delightful hours. Ah ! lovely bower ! she cry'd ; thou now art solitary. In vain the pale moon pierces thy aromatic shades. There, dear departed ABEL ! the ruddy evening saw thee pour forth thy soul in holy rapture. The remembrance of thine intense devotion, thy fervent piety, thy humble love, has lighted up in my heart a sacred fervor. I will rise above this grief. The darkness of my soul is dispell'd by the dear remembrance, as the rising moon chases from the horizon the gloom of night. O my beloved ! in yonder sweet retreat, how has devotion animated thine eyes ! How wert thou rais'd above mortality, when thou in
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the joyful exultation of thine heart saidst, What an happiness is it, my dearest THIRZA, to be virtuous ! What a privilege to be permitted to supplicate, to love him from whom all these beauties are but emanations ? What unspeakable felicity, to be conscious that the angels who surround us approve our actions ! What, my beloved wife, he added, taking my hand, What delight is there in this beautiful creation, that can be compar'd to the constant assurance of the DIVINE presence !—to the consciousness of virtue. To him who departeth not from his integrity, who panteth after perfection, death itself has lost many of its terrors. We know—let the sinner exult in the inexpressible mercy !—we know that it will only separate the body from the immortal soul, which, when escap'd from its prison of earth, will wing its way to the mansions of eternal joy. O my THIRZA, continu'd the dear departed saint, if I quit my dust before thee—before thee remove to bliss, short and moderate be thy grief : weep not long over my perishing clay. What are the days of this short life, compar'd with eternity ! We shall meet again in the realms of purity and joy, to part no more. Dearest ABEL ! I reply'd, while my tears flow'd, neither if I first leave my dust, do thou give way to fruitless sorrow : shed not

many tears over my senseless corpse. We shall, my love, be re-united : we shall together enjoy everlasting happiness : we shall meet—O ecstasy ! never, never to part more !—O my soul ! sink not under thy grief. Sublime are the consolations offer'd thee. Remember thy diguity—reflect on thine immortality !—look beyond the present calamity—rejoice in the salvation that awaits thee. Didst thou perish with the frail body, Where would be my hope ?—What could assuage my sorrow ?—Well might I lament over this grave !—Well might I pray that an end might be put to my wretched being—but—I shall live for ever ! I will rise above this dis-spiriting grief. Yes, my dearest husband ! if thy ennobled soul—if thy angelic mind still retains any love, any concern for my happiness, thou wilt be pleas'd to know that thine example has inspired me with fortitude—has taught me to bear up under the unavoidable afflictions of mortality. Dear angel ! if thou still hoverest over me, thou shalt be witness to my endeavours to repel this fruitless grief : but my tears still flow—I cannot yet command my sorrow. I must a little longer weep on this precious dust. I will erect round the grave an arbour of cypress : under the melancholy shade

shade I will mourn my loss : but under it too I will contemplate, in holy transport, on the happy moment, when I shall meet my beloved ; when, like him, I shall be free from all impurity, all sorrow, all sin, and eternally out of the reach of death. This ravishing prospect will—it does abate my anguish. She now arose from the grave, but instantly cry'd, sinking again on her knees, O horrid reflection !——our brother murder'd him ! O GOD OF GOODNESS ! hear my supplications : shew favour to the unhappy sinner ; hear him when he cries to Thee : destroy him not, O GOD ! in Thy wrath, Save him, O gracious GOD ! save him from eternal perdition. My petitions for his final happiness shall ascend to Thee in the early dawn. I will pray for him without ceasing. He is still my brother.

CAIN, the prey of wild despair, lay trembling among the bushes. Fly, he cry'd to himself, fly these holy dwellings, odious monster !—Ah ! I cannot fly. I am surrounded by infernal horrors—Leave me, furies, leave me—Carry me, trembling feet, from this seat of virtue. I profane the sacred place. Alas ! I cannot fly : my strength fails. A cold shivering has seiz'd my limbs——Oh that these were
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the last tremblings of nature ! Unhappy that I am, I survive to feel encreasing anguish. How her lamentations pierce my soul ! O Virtue how sublime are thy consolations !—all lost--forever lost to me. No hope remains—I have sinn'd beyond forgiveness—Ah ! she prays ! she prays for me !—for me who have fill'd her heart with sorrow !——Unexampled goodness ! Ought she not rather to call down curses on my guilty head ?—O torture. Her virtue, her piety, heightens my despair. My miseries are insupportable. My crime appears in all its magnitude. Not the apostate spirits in the lowest abyss of Hell feel more horror—Thou pray for me, THIRZA !—Thy rash vows are all superfluous.—No, GOD will not hear thy prayers——he is just—Now she retires from the grave of her husband murdered by my hand. Dare I tread the same path ?——dare I weep on the traces made by her feet ?---No---Retire, barbarous fratricide ! ---Retire, bloody murderer from the sanctify'd spot ---Fly, wretch, fly.——

Having thus spoke, he walk'd with hasty step, but suddenly stopping, he cry'd O MAHALA ! how can I leave thee ! How can I leave ye forever, O my children ! I will in the dust deplore my crime before
you

you---before thee, MAHALA. Perhaps thou now shedd'st tears of compassion for my misery---perhaps thou wilt bless me still---But what do I say? curs'd of God, who will dare to bless me!--No, hate me, curse me: I deserve it---then I fly abhor'd of all, loaded with the curse of God, and of all nature. Misery extreme! anguish insupportable! I have no power to fly---I come, I come, my dearest wife! to mourn before thee my guilt and wretchedness. I will weep at thy feet---I will implore thee to forgive my having chas'd peace from thine heart, and fill'd thy days with sorrow. Then,---yes, then---I fly from thee, MAHALA---I fly from you my children.

CAIN now pass'd at a distance from the grave, and advanc'd towards his cottage. He frequently stopp'd as irresolute. At length he came to his dwelling; but stood long without, pale and trembling. Then with tottering and hesitating step, he pass'd the threshold.

MAHALA was sitting on her solitary bed, gazing with weeping eyes at the pale moon, more pale herself than that star when envelop'd in clouds. Her infants were crying round her. At the sight of her husband she gave a heart-piercing shriek,

shriek, and fell on the bed senseless. The terrify'd infants grasp'd the knees of CAIN crying O my father ! help our dear mother ; she is faint—she is sick with weeping for ABEL—He is dead——ADAM has put him in the ground, and cover'd him with dust. Why was you so long a coming home ? You have work'd a long while. Dear father ! comfort our mother. Overcome by the conflict of his various passions, CAIN could give no answer to his little ones. He embrac'd them. He hugg'd them in his arms, while his tears ran on their faces. Then unable to support his anguish, he fell on the earth, at the feet of his wife. The children now redoubled their cries, which awaken'd MAHALA from her swoon. She saw her weeping husband on the earth. O CAIN ! CAIN ! she cry'd in a voice of despair, tearing her dishevell'd locks. MAHALA, interrupted CAIN, my dear MAHALA ! forgive me—pardon me the murderer of thy brother. This once allow me to weep before thee—This once let me cast myself in the dust at thy feet. Ah ! I conjure thee to grant me this feeble consolation—this last hope of a misery that has no equal—only abstain from cursing me. Curse me not, O MAHALA ! I come to deplore before thee my
misery

misery and my guilt :—then I fly far from thee forever. I will hide me in the desarts. Curs'd of God, follow'd by his wrath, I fly. O curse me not ! curse not thy wretched husband.

Ah CAIN ! she reply'd, penetrated with the tenderest compassion ; tho' thou hast kill'd the best of brothers—tho' thou hast heap'd inexpressible miseries on my wretched head, yet I forget not that thou art my husband. I pity—I weep for thee. CAIN answered casting on her a look of tenderness, a look that express'd the bitter anguish of his heart : Fatal moment when a dream from hell deceived me ! these little ones appear'd before me as slaves to the sons of ABEL. To save them from misery and bondage, I kill'd him—Curs'd moment ! I murdered the best of brothers, and the bloody deed will forever haunt my mind and fill it with infernal horrors. My punishment is eternal. Yet, O MAHALA, I would escape thy curses. Curse me not my dearest wife—Curse me not in my misery. This hour I fly—I quit thee forever—I quit ye forever, my beloved children ! I fly from ye, cursed by God and man.

The children lamented round him. They rais'd their innocent hands in agony. MAHALA sunk on the earth, and reclin'd

on her husband. Receive these tears—receive these expressions of my sincere forgiveness and compassion, she said, while she wept over him. Dost thou fly, CAIN? —Dost thou fly to the desert regions? How can I dwell here while thou art solitary and abandon'd—while thou art miserable far from me! No, CAIN, I fly with thee. How can I suffer thee to be destitute of all relief in the deserts!—What cruel inquietudes would torment me! Every breeze I heard would fill me with terror! Perhaps he is now, I should say to myself, Perhaps he is at this instant in the agonies of death without succour in some barren wild. She was silent, and CAIN, with a look of astonishment, cry'd, What do I hear! Is it thou MAHALA? is it thou thyself: or does a dream again deceive me? It is, it is my dear, my virtuous wife! Thy words MAHALA,—thy consolating words have softened my despair. Thou dost not hate me!—thou dost not curse me? It is enough. No, thou courageous, thou affectionate wife! thou shalt never share in the punishment due to my horrid crime—thou shalt not suffer for me the chastisements of Heaven. Remain in this abode sanctify'd by virtue, where dwelleth the Divine Benediction. I will not render thee

thee more miserable. Forget me MAHALA,—forget thy wretched husband. Abandon'd by GOD. I shall wander without peace or rest! but may'st thou be happy! may'st thou be blest! No, CAIN, if thou art miserable, I cannot here be happy, reply'd MAHALA. I fly with thee—with thee I wander—I will be desolate with thee—I go with thee to the desert regions. Our children shall go with us. I will there share thy misery—I will try to assuage it—I will mix my tears of compassion with thy tears of penitence—I will kneel by thy side.—My prayers shall ascend to Heaven with thine—Our children prostrate round us shall join their voices with ours. GOD will not disdain the penitent sinner. I fly with thee, CAIN.—Without ceasing we will pray——without ceasing we will mourn before GOD, till a ray of his grace illumines thy benighted soul, and justifies our confidence in his mercy. Hope in GOD, CAIN. He will hear the prayer of the penitent sinner.

O thou! cry'd CAIN, by what name shall I call thee? Thou art to me as a gracious angel! A beam of divine consolation has darted into the obscurity of my soul! O MAHALA! O my wife! now I dare embrace thee. O that I could
make

make thee sensible of what I feel! but words cannot express my gratitude—— cannot express the tender emotions of my heart. At these words he press'd her to his breast; then suddenly quitting her, he embrac'd his children: but soon return'd to his wife, and again clasp'd her to his heart.

Now this tender mother, this heroic wife, sooth'd her infants, and wip'd away their tears. She took her youngest child to her breast, another little one held by the hand of his father, while *Eliel* and *Josiah*, full of life and gaiety, tripp'd before them. *MAHALA* with weeping eyes, beheld the dwellings of her parents, and of *THIRZA*. Be blest, be blest, said she, O desolate family whom I abandon! Soon will I return from the place of our habitation, to supplicate your blessings for me——for my dear, my penitent husband. I will solicit for him a pardon. She now wept as irresolute, when instantly exhalations, more balsamic than are breath'd from all the flowers of offspring, surrounded the fugitives, and the voice of an invisible angel from over their heads, said, Go, generous wife, I will in a dream inform thy tender mother of thine heroic courage. I will tell her, thou art gone with thy penitent husband to implore
mercy

mercy for him from the SOVEREIGN
JUDGE.

They now walk'd by the light of the
nocturnal star. They lost sight of the
dwellings, and advanc'd into the desert re-
gions where had never been imprinted the
foot of man.

THE END.



